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Latin America

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Argentine Official Addresses OAS Session

PY1411164389 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0305 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Washington, 13 Nov (EFE)—Raul Carignano, Argentine Foreign Ministry secretary for Latin American affairs, today thanked all members of the OAS for their "support and understanding" on the issue of the Malvinas Islands in the South Atlantic. Carignano is representing Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo as the head of the Argentine delegation at the 19th OAS meeting that opened today in Washington. Carignano reiterated his government's "firm will" to "make Argentina's territory complete once again" through negotiations.

He stated that Argentina is "firmly committed to exploring with the British all possible options to come up with a creative solution that will take into account the interests of the islanders." Carignano added that Argentina trusts that the British Government will soon implement "pending measures that are needed to fully restore bilateral relations."

Carignano welcomed Canada as a full member of the OAS and reiterated his readiness to cooperate in the peace-seeking process in Central America, saying that "we cannot accept the situation in which this region is the exception in the international atmosphere of detente."

He emphasized the "significant role that the OAS is playing in the negotiating process," adding that along with the United Nations it has become "the appropriate institutional forum for focusing efforts to bring peace to Central America."

Carignano voiced his concern over events in El Salvador and stated that "joint action aimed at reestablishing political freedom" in Panama must be continued to "guarantee fair elections as soon as possible." He added: "Our country wishes to reemphasize the interest of Latin American peoples and governments, which are the guarantors of total compliance with the Torrijos-Carter treaties."

These treaties were signed in 1977 by Presidents Jimmy Carter and Omar Torrijos. According to these treaties the Panama Canal is to be handed over to the Panamanians on 31 December 1999. Carignano said that Argentina hopes that the "parties involved will not carry out actions that might prevent or hamper the implementation of a negotiated solution to the crisis."

Jamaica, Guyana Urge Tougher Stance on S. Africa

FL1311191789 Bridgetown CANA in English 1549 GMT 13 Nov

[Text] United Nations, Nov 13, CANA— Jamaica and Guyana have urged the international community to ignore the gestures of South Africa's new President F.W. de Klerk and impose tougher economic sanctions against Pretoria.

In speeches during the General Assembly's debate on apartheid, both Jamaica and Guyana have warned against believing that De Klerk intended to dismantle his country's racist policies. Instead, they charged, he merely wanted to change his image while keeping apartheid intact.

Senator Lucille Mair, the minister of state in Jamaica's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that despite recent developments, the internal situation in South Africa was "treacherous." She dismissed as "naive" thinking the speculation that De Klerk's statements indicated a commitment for peaceful change.

The hard facts were that no real change was underway, contended Mair, and that could be seen in the way Pretoria ignored the recent calls by Commonwealth leaders for an end to the country's racist policies. Instead of heeding calls from the Commonwealth, Pretoria had taken additional steps to prop up the discredited apartheid system, a move that had made a "mockery" of the much trumpeted so-called reform plans of the new leadership, Mair said.

That was why Jamaica wanted an immediate expansion of the international pressure against South Africa, including the tightening of economic, investment and financial sanctions, she went on. It also explained why the Jamaica Government was disturbed when a number of banks ignored the pleadings of the international community and Commonwealth leaders and negotiated a deal with the South African reserve bank that allowed Pretoria to repay 1.5 billion through December 1993 and turn 6.5 billion into long term credits.

The banks' actions were unfortunate because of the foreign pressures exerted on South Africa, the one that had the most telling effect was the decision by Western bankers in 1985 to block any new loans to South Africa and to demand repayment of 14 billion in short-term debt.

Guyana's UN Ambassador Samuel Insanally, who also spoke during the Assembly's debate, described De Klerk as the "archpriest of apartheid" and accused him of undertaking a carefully contrived public relations campaign to dupe international opinion into believing that positive changes were underway. Because of that, he went on, the international community must increase economic sanctions so as to force Pretoria to abolish apartheid.

Caribbean Labor Congress President Elected

FL1111003089 Bridgetown CANA in English 2358 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Nov 10, CANA—Barbadian trade unionist Leroy Trotman was on Friday elected as the new president of the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) at its current meeting in Curacao, the state-run CBC televison here reported on Friday. Trotman is deputy general secretary of the Barbados Workers Union (BWU).

Caribbean Group Discusses Human Rights, Drugs

FL1411163989 Bridgetown CANA in English
1523 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Nov 14, CANA— The Caribbean is at the crossroads in working out how to deal with the barriers between infringing on human rights and getting tough with corrupt police and other criminals, according to the Caribbean Institute for the Promotion of Human Rights (Caricare).

A front page editorial of its first quarterly publication: "THE CARICARE SENTINEL," deals with the issues of human rights, drug trafficking and the police—issues it refers to as "the Caribbean agony".

The editorial examines the "politicisation" of the police force against the backdrop of the same politicians "passing the buck" when the police come under fire. "There has been an increasing trend in the Caribbean for political control over the police service. Ministers of national security have become responsible for the police," the editorial said. It cited the role of politicians in choosing both police service commission officials and police commissioners.

Regarding the drug problem in the region, particularly in Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, Caricare complimented governments for seeking to enact legislation to uncover drug corruption within the police service. "We urge these governments not to let up, to persist relentlessly in weeding out and prosecuting all corrupt police officers. The public expects no less. We must choose the right path, rather than delay at the crossroads," the editorial said.

The editorial said that it believed that no matter how the legislation was shaped, a hard attack against drug trafficking could not be made unless people were willing to suffer some inconvenience to normal freedoms. "The dilemma for Caribbean governments is how to preserve these basic freedoms while still mounting an effective legislative programme to weed out the traffickers and the attendant corruption of our democratic institutions," the editorial said.

"We cannot stand idle at the crossroads. We must choose the right path and set our priorities right for the public interest. At the same time, the police officers and politicans must ensure that their hands are clean, way above suspicion," said the publication.

Cuba

Radio Veneceremos Cited on San Salvador Clashes

FL1411142289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Guerrilla units are fighting Salvadoran Government forces a few meters from their general barracks and in the San Salvador neighborhoods of San Martin and General Arce.

A communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, and broadcast by Radio Venceremos indicates that the insurgent forces penetrated peripheral neighborhoods of San Salvador this morning. The communique also says that heavy fighting is taking place near the San Benito police barracks, the Zona Rosa, the National Museum, and the International Fair. Radio Venceremos reports that fighting is taking place throughout San Salvador; it also denounced the death of many civilians due to the indiscriminate bombings of the government's Air Force.

According to insurgent Radio Venceremos the presence of the guerrilla forces in the country's major cities has encouraged popular uprisings and the growing participation of the population in the struggle. The report adds that the rebel units continue fighting the Army in seven other departments of the country.

Malmierca, Albanian View New Socialist Trends

FL1411125189 Bridgetown CANA in English 0607 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Cuba and Albania say socialism can only be defended by correcting its own mistakes and not by applying capitalist formulas. Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, speaking at the conclusion of a visit to Albania, said the two countries shared a concern about what he termed the recent non-positive development of events in other socialist countries.

Malmierca spent four days in Albania, where he met with President Ramiz Alia and other leaders.

Malmierca Discusses UN in Romanian Talks

FL1411164889 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1524 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has said that Cuba and Romania have been called upon to work together to make the role of the UN Security Council more effective. Malmierca mentioned the importance our country places on the election of Cuba and Romania as permanent members of that organization for a 2-year-period, effective 1 January 1990.

After concluding talks today with his Romanian counterpart, Ioan Totu, the Cuban foreign minister told journalists that he feels that the exchanges between the two foreign ministries and governments should be more frequent during that 2-year period to fulfill the objectives and duties the UN Charter has assigned to the council. In this regard Malmierca said that Cuba and Romania would further coincide in their voting at the United Nations, and he viewed this as a positive step.

International TV Programming Meeting Begins

FL1411185489 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] The work group on the planning and exchange of Intervision programs began its regular meeting today in Havana to discuss proposals that will improve the discipline and work style of television organizations.

In his opening remarks, Juan Hernandez, vice president of cultural programming of the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television [ICRT], reported on the structural changes of Cuban television aimed at eliminating measures and systems that hindered its work. He stressed that 40 years after it was founded, 70 percent of the programs transmitted by our television system are developed in Cuba.

The meeting is attended by representatives from Poland, USSR, CSSR, Hungary, Bulgaria, Cuba, and the ICRT.

The volume of exchange in the Intervision system consists of 2,000 programs a year with 3,000 hours of transmission. Countries that are members of this international radio and television organization thus receive sports and economic news, exceptional and educational reports on science and technology, as well as musical, literary, and dramatic programs. Access to Intervision is unrestricted and free, and it represents 80 percent of the visible work of the International Radio and Television Organization.

Education Cooperation Talks Begin With France

FL1411142089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1324 GMT 14 Nov 89

[From the "Haciendo Radio" program]

[Text] The eighth session of the joint Cuba-France cultural-scientific-technical commission began meeting at the headquarters of the Cuban Foreign Ministry [MINREX]. The talks are presided over by Ricardo Alarcon, first MINREX vice president, and Jean-Pierre Angremy, general director of cultural affairs of the French Foreign Ministry.

Cuba and France have cooperation ties in the fields of education, higher education, health, filmmaking, sports, and culture. The two countries have exchange agreements between Havana's Oriente University and a university in the south of France.

Fernandez Greets Internationalists From Angola

FL1411125589 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Over 120 internationalist combatants have returned from Angola with their chests full of medals and their hearts full of love for the fatherland. The first one to get off the plane was Colonel Alberto Pedroso Alfonso who headed the group. Jose Ramon Fernandez, alternate member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee Politburo and education minister, welcomed them at the bottom of the steps of the plane. [video shows internationalists shaking hands with Jose Ramon Fernandez] [passage omitted]

Sugar Workers Congress Scheduled for 16-17 Nov

FL1411134089 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Manuel Cordero, chairman of the commission that is organizing the 18th congress of National Sugar Industry Workers Union, has said that optimism and hard work will prevail among the over 600 delegates and guests who will attend the meeting.

During a news conference at the Cuban Workers Federation Headquarters, Cordero announced that the congress will be held on 16-17 November. The congress will be attended by delegates who represent the over 350,000 affiliates to the sugar workers union and whose debates will basically be about the work prospects of the sugar industry.

Dominican Republic

Energy Crisis Worse After Fire Closes Plant

FL1411165889 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1512 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] The energy crisis in the Dominican Republic seriously worsened after the only turbogenerator plant in that country was shut down on Monday. Experts in Santo Domingo describe this as a serious problem. The Turbogas plant in Barahona, which has the ability to generate 24,000 kilowatts, was rendered inoperable because of a fire, the cause of which has not yet been determined.

Haiti

Avril Visits Garrisons, Calls for Unity

FL1411232489 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1200 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Excerpts] The president of the military government, Lieutenant General Prosper Avril, yesterday visited the military garrisons of the Navy and Air Corps in the capital, and the General Headquarters of the Port-au-Prince Police. During these visits, Lt Gen Avril sat down and talked to members of the Armed Forces about the unity that should exist within the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH]. Gen Avril said FADH is being accused of many things, and that the members of FADH must be tolerant and accept a number of things, so as not to lend themselves to further criticism. [passage omitted]

Just a few days before 18 November, which is the anniversary of the battle of Vertieres and also Armed Forces Day in Haiti, the president of the military government, accompanied by interim FADH Commander in Chief Major General Herard Abraham, Colonel Christophe Dardompre [commander of the Presidential Guard], and several other high-ranking FADH officers, visited the Navy, Air Corps and Police military garrisons in Port-au-Prince yesterday morning.

During his speeches, President Avril talked about unity within FADH. At Navy Headquarters, President Avril congratulated the members of this corps for having shouldered the great responsibility of watching over the nation's security. The president said this shows that the members of FADH love their country and their work, and that he is very pleased to see that they are shouldering their responsibilities despite the tribulations the institution has been through.

[Begin Avril recording] First of all, I wanted to come see you because I have not been to this base for more than a year now. I have come to express my support for the work you have to do in this country.

I spoke of congratulations. Why? Because FADH, and thus the Haitian Navy, are bearing a big responsibility; and I can congratulate you because I see that up to the present, you have been shouldering this responsibility well. As you know, the country—and particularly FADH—has suffered many tribulations this past year. I am very pleased, however, to see that within FADH there is one thing stronger than everything else: our love for this country. It is our role to keep this country whole. It is up to us to ensure security in this country.

I congratulate you precisely because despite all the tribulations FADH has been through, it has remained whole up to the present, and is watching over the country. As you know, as long as FADH is whole, the country is whole. Inversely, if FADH falls apart, the country will fall apart.

The mission that the entire FADH, through myself, are accomplishing at present is a very important mission. The last time I came here, I spoke of unity. You have (?since) seen what lack of unity could have done to FADH. There was an attempt to create disunity; however, unity proved to be stronger. Unity is stronger, because here we are, all together (?still), solving the nation's problems. At the same time, we are all here together to keep the country alive and strong, so that nothing can again sully the nation. [end recording]

After visiting Navy Headquarters on Carrefour Road, Lt Gen Avril visited the Air Corps. He took a look at all the Haitian Air Corps planes. While there, Gen Avril said he felt that on the eve of the 18 November holiday, it was important for him to visit all military posts so as to become aware of the little problems being encountered at these posts and to see what can be done. The president then said the government is trying to keep the nation moving along the path traced for it by our ancestors, keep it independent, and improve the situation of the Haitian masses.

[Begin Avril recording] I knew that on the eve of 18 November, it was important for me to visit the military posts so we could make a brief evaluation of what the problems are and take a look at what we have accomplished.

If we examine things carefully, look at the heart of the matter, we can see that we have just been through a year—since September of 1988—in which we have been trying to see how to keep the country—how can I put it? —keep the country on the path first taken by our forefathers. I mean, trying to maintain the nation's independence and also seeing what we could do to improve the fate of the Haitian masses.

The year was spent, however, more in politics than in what could be called construction, instead of in building what we wanted. We did make a big effort to build. We also see that there are many destabilizing forces, many forces that want to turn things topsy-turvy, that (?are going to) act upon us during the coming year. Therefore, I wanted to come by to tell the Air Corps that if we manage to keep the country in equilibrium—that is, if we do not fail in our mission to maintain the nation's integrity, sovereignty, and national security—well, I wanted to tell the Air Corps that there is something in it for them [yo la dan'l], too.

We will manage to maintain the nation's security and integrity, because the members of the Air Corps, from the newest recruit all the way up to the commanding officer, who is here beside us, (?have) all placed the nation's interests above all else—above anything that might have been bothering them, any demands they might have wanted to make, anything that might have displeased them—to further the nation's interests. [end recording]

The last military garrison that Gen Avril visited was the Port-au-Prince Police Department. On that occasion Colonel Henri Robert Augustin, the commander of this corps, spoke of the police's role. He said the police must respect the law and the Constitution and protect the lives and property of the citizenry. For his part, Gen Avril asked the police to think realistically so they can help him with his task.

[Begin Avril recording] [passage omitted] The first thing I would like to say to you is: Congratulations! Because the police department, all the metropolitan area police departments, played a big role in what we have been able to accomplish during this past year, a year in which FADH have suffered many tribulations, as you know. Thanks to the police, we were nevertheless able to keep the country intact. I congratulate you because, as you know, (?during the) disintegration, the Port-au-Prince Police Department...[changes thought] because from where I sit, I could see shells falling behind the police (?station), and the police fired not a shot. I (?found) that you even (?did) everything you could to save the lives of our brothers. Thus, there lies the question. The problem now is (?that you must be) lucid. What is now required is lucidity. Discernment is what is required now. What is required now is that things be examined carefully. That is what is required now. [end recording] [passage omitted]

New Prefect Blames 'Insecurity' on 'Terrorists'

FL1111142889 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1730 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Excerpts] The new prefect the government has just appointed for Port-au-Prince, (Jean Claude Chassagne) took office today. [passage omitted]

Attorney Arnold Charles, the doyen of the civil court—who presided over the ceremony—said the prefect was the population's spokesman before the government, even if the prefect is appointed by the government. Therefore, to detect the enemies of the government in place is not the only job of a prefect. [passage omitted]

For his part, the new prefect made a speech explaining how he is going to work and how he views Haitian politics. Here is an excerpt of his speech.

[Begin (Chassagne) recording, in French] We dare say a certain sector of the political class, unaware of the serious dangers threatening our very existence as a people, far from joining the long and difficult march leading to the way out of the tunnel, unfortunately prefers to spend itself in dangerous protests, thereby making itself the involuntary accomplice of professional terrorists who, through insidious maneuvers, have established and wish to maintain at any cost, a climate of insecurity in this sprawling city of Port-au-Prince, as well as throughout the rest of the nation.

The reopening of the Port-au-Prince prefecture, in conformity with the law, is merely the reparation of an anomaly. It is a responsible decision that shows the government's desire to set in place adequate structures to ensure the protection of the lives and property of citizens and to ensure peace in homes and in the streets—and by so doing, strangle what everyone, caught in the (?hustle and bustle) of criminal and shameful disinformation, insists on calling "generalized insecurity." [end recording]

We must remind listeners that at the beginning of this week Haitian Christian Democratic Party leader Sylvio Claude, while discussing the position of prefect, once again said that Duvalierist Macoutes could come up with nothing good, and that people who think General Avril is going to hold elections in Haiti are dreaming. [passage omitted]

National Assemblage Issues Open Letter

FL1111150089 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1730 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Excerpts] The members of the National Assemblage Coordinating Committee have addressed an open letter to Public Prosecutor Gerard Arthur Delbeau and to Examining Magistrate (Jean Ulrick Charles). In its letter, the National Assemblage says that as things are now, the way the judiciary is allowing itself to be manipulated in Haiti by General Prosper Avril is simply impossible, and cannot continue. [passage omitted]

The Assemblage says it looks as if Major Clerjeune is not only the government's executioner but has also replaced the public prosecutor and the examining magistrate. Such behavior shows us clearly, says the Assemblage, that Article 269 of the Constitution—which says the police is an armed corps under the Ministry of Justice—is no longer being respected by Gen Avril. [passage omitted]

Article 26.2 of the Constitution says that if an arrest is illegal, the judge is to order the arrested person's immediate release, without the Court of Appeals or the Court of Cassation being able to prevent the release. [passage omitted]

The Assemblage believes in the courage, determination, will, patriotic conscience, dignity, and professional conscience of a number of prominent members of the judiciary in Haiti, who must rise up so that Gen Avril, as coach of the team made up of the thugs [sans mamans], will not be referee for the final match to be played against the team made up of Haiti's democrats.

We think it is the duty of all judges to stand fast, so that law and justice can triumph against arbitrary acts in Haiti.

The Assemblage condemns these savage acts, and asks the Council of the Order of Lawyers of the Port-au-Prince Bar, the public prosecutor, and the examining magistrate not to allow Gen Avril to wipe his feet on them.

The National Assemblage says that again today, after a 2-day strike to demand the release of the three staunch patriots in which the entire population participated, the National Assembly insists that the judiciary do its duty and especially conform to Article 26.2 of the Constitution and release the men in question immediately, as required by law and asked by the people of Haiti.

This press release is signed by the Coordinating Committee of the National Assemblage.

Alliance Proposes Solution to Current Crisis

FL1111162189 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] In a press release about a solution to the crisis, the National Alliance for Democracy and Progress, ANDP—which is made up of the Movement for the Establishment of Democracy in Haiti [MIDH], the National Patriotic Movement of 28 November [MNP-28], and the Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti [Panpra]—say that the (?second) general strike called for by the Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers [CATH] was a big success. The ANDP thus congratulates those responsible for this initiative, as well as the population, which showed it is not in favor of human rights violations and is fully in favor of the fundamental principles contained in the 1987 Constitution.

In all crisis situations, there are two possible paths to a solution open to political sectors: one based on a policy of force, and the other based on political force. Haiti's current situation is no exception to this rule.

ANDP feels the strategy based on political force is the proper approach, an appropriate [korek], realistic, and reasonable approach. Within this same perspective, ANDP, which is against a hardline policy of repression and in favor of proper dialogue and proper concerted action, thinks that an end must be put to this current crisis that is blocking the country, which ANDP thinks might lead us to total catastrophe if it continues. Thus, ANDP thinks citizens Auguste Mesyeux, Evans Paul, and Etienne Martineau should be released immediately or taken before a judge, as stipulated by the Constitution and law, and demands that this be done. In this spirit, it fully supports all initiatives undertaken by representatives of civilian society for permission to visit the prisoners and make sure they get the medical care they require.

ANDP also reaffirms its firm conviction that the only realistic way out of this crisis is to hold free, honest, democratic elections as soon as possible.

ANDP proposes that the management council of the Electoral Council [CEP] should hasten to do its work so as to be able to guarantee that the electoral process will be over and done with as soon as possible.

ANDP also proposes that the military government create a higher political council to help it with what it does in the country for the little time in power remaining to it.

ANDP proposes that this higher political council have 11 members. It proposes that nine of these members be chosen according to the same criteria used to choose the members of the CEP, and that the two remaining members be chosen by the private sector and the associations of voodoo practitioners. ANDP also proposes that the government establish a high military council assist it, so as to allow the entire Army to participate effectively during this serious period of national crisis in the decisionmaking process within the military government, as well as to allow it to play its role fully in the evolution of the democratic process the nation and the Haitian people are demanding.

ANDP also proposes that the CEP, the authorities, and the political forces in Haiti envision, together with friendly governments and international organizations, ways and means to help with and to contribute to the political atmosphere and political process in Haiti.

Marc Bazin, Dejean Belizaire, and Arnold Antonin sign this press release for MIDH, MNP-28, and Panpra, respectively.

Demonstration Planned for Prisoner Release

FL1311165789 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1200 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Excerpts] The Common Front Against Repression is holding a demonstration tomorrow morning to demand the release of the three militants arrested by the government on 1 November and to show the government that it is displeased with the way the police manhandled the three prisoners when they arrested them.

According to Robert Duval, a member of the Front, the demonstration will begin in front of Perpetuel Secours Church in Bel-Air and end in front of the Law Courts.

The Common Front Against Repression is a committee made up of several human rights, union, socioprofessional, and people's organizations—such as the League of Former Political Prisoners and Friends and Family of Missing Persons, or LAPPH; People's National Assembly, or APN; Autonomous Organization of Haitian Workers, or CATH; and several others. [passage omitted]

[Begin Duval recording] This is the Common Front Against Repression. This is a front made up of some 24 people's and democratic organizations that are going to demonstrate on Tuesday, 14 November. [passage omitted] In the front are a number of organizations including the Haitian Workers Committee, the CATH, the LAPPH, the APN, the Metropolitan Drivers Union, the Committee of Revolutionary Unemployed Haitians, the Welders Association, and so forth which have risen up to demand the release of the three comrades arrested improperly: Jean Auguste Mesyeux of the CATH, Etienne Marineau of the 17 September People's Organization, and Evans Paul of the Confederation for Democratic Unity.

We are also demanding the release of a sergeant named Max Henri who was arrested today. The entire country is demanding the release of the three comrades. Meanwhile, the police continue to arrest people arbitrarily and unjustly. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Claude: Rumor of Arrest 'Psychological Warfare'

FL1311182389 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1000 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Text] There has been a rumor for the past few days that the Reverend Sylvio Claude [head of the Haitian Christian Democratic Party] has been arrested. This rumor grew yesterday in Port-au-Prince.

This morning, we talked to Reverend Claude by telephone.

[Begin Claude recording] The government started this rumor. I have proof of this. This is psychological warfare. They are trying to predispose people to this idea because they want to arrest me. They are preparing people's minds for this arrest. Their only problem is that they have not managed to find a pretext to arrest me. They are looking for pretexts. There have been several meetings at the Department of the Interior and at the National Palace. They are looking for a way to arrest me.

They even (?sought out) former (?PDCH) members or members in dire economic straits, so they could pay them to go and throw molotov coctails and start fires. Then they could say that I sent them as they did with Jean Robert Herard, (Tcho-tcho), and several others back under Jean-Claude Duvalier. They (?put) them on television to say that I sent them out to set fires. I tell you that is what they are ready to do.

They are even trying to find out where I sleep. They are looking everywhere. They say I do not sleep at home often. They are trying to find out where I sleep so they can plant weapons there, so they can say that I have an arms cache. They are creating pretexts like that to arrest me. They are preparing the population for it at the same time they are doing this.

I have proof of this. Last Tuesday [7 November] the PDCH's second secretary general, Roberts Menard, was walking by the Antigang Service when a soldier called him and said: Hey, they just caught the Reverend! They just brought him in!

Menard said: Really?

The soldier said: Yes, they just brought him in! They just caught him!

As you can see, they are responsible for the rumors. They want to prepare the population. They say they simply must arrest me because if they don't arrest or kill me, Avril will not be able to appoint himself definitive president of Haiti on the 18th. They say that even if he does, I will be a problem. I must be dealt with either by putting me in prison or by assassinating me so that all will go smoothly. This is why my arrest has been rumored.

I am warning the population. Former President Lescot said: The Haitian people are hereby forewarned and the nation is hereby informed [preceding words in French] that this rumor has been put out by the government. The people and the nation must prepare themselves to react accordingly to what the government wants to do. [end recording]

CEP President Auguste Asks for People's Trust

FL1411165789 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1200 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Excerpts] The members of the Electoral Council [CEP] say they are organizing themselves so that they can give the Haitian people proper elections. CEP President Dr Louis Antoine Auguste asks the Haitian people to trust the CEP. [passage omitted]

[Reporter Jacob Virgil] In part two of the interview granted Radio Nationale by CEP President Auguste, we will talk about the work the CEP is doing to hold proper elections in Haiti and about the budgets and the aid they are counting on from foreign sectors.

The CEP last week transferred its offices to its headquarters on Pavee Street. The new headquarters is still under repair. [passage omitted].

The CEP is also working on the statutes unique to CEP personnel to submit it as quickly as possible to the executive. In the interview he granted Radio Nationale last Friday [10 November], CEP President Auguste also said they are working on the draft electoral law.

[Begin Auguste recording] [passage omitted] We have three committees working: one on internal structures and regulations, one on the draft electoral law, and one on the electoral rolls. These committees were formed on 17 April and have been working all this time. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Dr Auguste said the CEP's budget for 1989-90 is 48 million gourdes. He said the government has already given the CEP 12 million gourdes to allow them to begin work. The CEP is now going to inform the foreign sectors that had promised to help, but had been asked to wait until the CEP is ready to receive their aid. [passage omitted]

[Begin Auguste recording] [passage omitted] We would like the Haitian people to consider this money as an investment in setting up a new institution. People tend to lose sight of that fact. It is normal that the initial cost is a lot but once set up, it will cost less every year. That is how we see it. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Dr Auguste asked the Haitian people to trust the CEP to organize proper free elections in Haiti. He stressed that the CEP is independent of the executive branch of the government and the nation's political parties as well. It does not have to take orders from anyone. He asked the population to try to understand what the CEP is all about. [passage omitted]

We remind listeners that in part one of this interview, Dr Auguste discussed the possibility of a revision to the electoral calendar next week, after the CEP meets with certain leaders of political organizations.

L'UNION Links Panama, Drugs to Recent Plot

FL1411224089 Port-au-Prince L'UNION in French No 247, 9 Nov 89, p 1

[Joseph J. Bataille editorial: "A Courageous Act"]

[Text] There is a kind of dignity in the military government's reaction to the meddling of Noriega's agents in the internal affairs of the Republic of Haiti. It seems it took the personal intervention of Ambassador Rafael Vargas Santos in the Haitian praetorium for the national community to become at least adequately aware of the scope of the 1 November plot and its ramifications on the international level.

It was indeed absolutely necessary to take action before our country got caught up in the infernal cycle of worldwide drug trafficking.

You bet the military government is right to break off diplomatic relations with Noriega's team! Haiti has neither the strategic position nor the financial resources to convince the Western powers of the seriousness of the plot aimed at obstructing our democratic process.

The reason the military government did not react early on, despite the fact that it had proof that intrigues were being plotted in the offices of the Panamanian Embassy, was that it was trying to avoid breaking off traditional diplomatic relations with a sister nation.

Who can forget that for more than a year the military government has been showing scrupulous respect for basic freedoms, repeatedly expressing its unswerving willingness to respect human rights through the creation of the Office for the Protection of the Citizenry? The Haitian authorities used every occasion to bring to mind our ties of friendship with OAS member-countries.

It is better to take action coldly than to stand by passively and accept the arrogance of the Panamanian ambassador.

The response to be given to international terrorism does not depend solely on the current government in the National Palace. It must also come from the ensemble of the political parties, which have not yet reacted to the military government's sovereign decision to expel Ambassador Vargas from Haiti for having supported the three terrorists arrested on 32 Arcachon Street. In this grim game of introducing drug trafficking into Haiti using Haitians, we cannot fail to appreciate the courage and determination President Prosper Avril has shown by taking concrete measures to prevent certain foreign nationals from involving themselves in the internal affairs of Haiti.

Are the leaders of political parties aware of the importance of the confrontation that has just begun between Panama and the Republic of Haiti? Are they aware of the fact that without a doubt they will be affected tomorrow by international terrorism, which is beginning to become a reality in our political system?

Committee Reacts To Expulsion of Panama Envoy

FL1411181389 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1730 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The Haiti-Panama Solidarity Committee, a support committee, has reacted to the expulsion of the Panamanian ambassador. The Haitian Government's decision to expel the Panamanian ambassador and to recall soon the representative of the Haitian ambassador to Panama disgusts the Haiti-Panama Solidarity Committee, says a member of this committee, Idli Cameau.

The committee says it does not think the military government of General Prosper Avril, which is a de facto government with no popular support, has a right to involve itself so deeply in a number of important matters, such as Haiti's diplomatic relations with friendly countries.

Furthermore, Cameau says that this is not a decision the Haitian Government made itself. The Haitian Government is merely carrying out the orders of the U.S. Government, within the framework of the struggle the United States is waging to isolate Panama. [passage omitted]

[Begin Cameau recording] [passage omitted] This is a robot government that has done something at the order of the North American government to isolate Panama. [passage omitted]

In view of this serious situation, we of the Haiti-Panama Solidarity Committee ask the Haitian people to be vigilant and to understand what is going on and to see the power the heavy-handed U.S. Government is wielding, as well as the role it is playing in Haiti.

Something that makes us indignant is the fact that since this communique yesterday, we have been getting many calls and visits from business people who want to know what is happening. These people are from all social classes, even wives, relatives, or friends of members of the Haitian Armed Forces. [end recording] [passage omitted]

After denouncing all the other kinds of meddling that the government does not condemn, the committee asked the government to properly protect all Panamanian citizens living in Haiti. [passage omitted]

[Begin Cameau recording] [passage omitted] We inform our brothers in Panama and throughout Latin America that the government can do something through force of arms, but that we the Haitian people don't have anything to do with that. We can, however, continue to remain united because the pain of one people is the pain of all people. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Correction to Charge of Beating Prisoners

FL14111673789 The following correction pertains to the item subheaded "Palace Soldiers Accused of Beatings," published in the 14 November Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 6:

Column one, paragraph three, line three, make read: ...to be returned to the National Penitentiary. This gave rise.... (changing word "Palace" to "Penitentiary")

Armed Forces Announce Soldiers' Court Martial

FL1111160289 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1000 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] We have here a press release from the General Headquarters of the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH]. We will read you this press release, which is about some soldiers who are going to be court-martialed.

By decision of the FADH General Headquarters, the following members of the Armed Forces have been (?sent) before the general court martial that sits at the General Headquarters of the Port-au-Prince Police: Lieutenant (Gerald Larochelle), FADH; Sublieutenant (Israel Pierre-Fils); Adjutant (Joseph Metellus); Private First Class (Zamor, Jean Fouenesse), FADH; enlisted men (Zamor, Pierre Antoine) and (Limage, Auguste), FADH; and (Beaubrun Labissiere), FADH.

The documents on the charges against these soldiers were sent to the military prosecutor of the general court martial back on 20 and 21 October 1989.

This was a press release from the Directorate of Information of the Ministry of Information and Coordination.

Jamaica

Central Bank Raises Credit Ceilings After Study

FL1411184889 Bridgetown CANA in English 1608 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Nov 14, CANA— The Bank of Jamaica [BOJ], the country's central bank, has raised the credit ceilings on commercial and non-banks.

JAMPRESS, the official news agency, quoted Finance Minister Seymour Mullings as saying that the limits had been increased following a review by the BOJ of information provided by the banks and other financial institutions and a reassessment of likely deposit growth "in the light of the now stable exchange rate as well as a closer examination of the public sector needs for credit."

The BOJ in September announced a freeze on credit on balances outstanding at August 31. The ceiling was part of a number of measures aimed at curbing an "unprogrammed increase" in credit usage by the private sector totalling some 1.1 billion Jamaican dollars which was having negative consequences on the country's external accounts and exchange rate.

The new measures call for the credit limits on commercial banks to be increased by 203 million dollars, a 3 percent increase over the August figure.

For non-banks, credit ceilings have been raised by an additional 182 million dollars or 7 per cent over the August figure.

"These new figures totalling 385 million Jamaican dollars will mean that the financial system would have expanded credit for 1989 by 2,746.8 million Jamaican dollars over the amount outstanding at December 31, 1988—a 39.95 percent increase and the largest single increase in any one year," JAMPRESS quoted Mullings as saying.

It added that although the increase over August was substantial, the financial institutions have stated that these margins will not allow for new credit commitments as the institutions have existing commitments which will be given priority within their ceilings.

JAMPRESS said that these ceilings are not applicable to projects funded through the resources of the National Development Bank, the Exim Bank, the Agricultural Credit Bank or the Trafalgar Development Bank.

Netherlands Antilles

Radio Allowed To Set Up Studios Inside USSR

FL1411161389 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Trans World Radio International has been given permission to set up radio production facilities inside the Soviet Union. It was announced on November 10 that Soviet officials have granted the okay for at least three studios, one in Moscow, one in Kiev, and another in Minsk. They also grant a mobile recording vehicle and several portable recording units. Trans World Radio will be working with the Evangelical community within the Soviet Union in transmitting the Gospel.

Government Issues Warning on U.S. Border Force

PA1411234589 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2248 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Nov (DPA)—The Mexican Government warned today that the "unilateral" decision by the United States to use the Army in border actions to counter drug trafficking might have "negative consequences" on bilateral relations.

The Foreign Relations Secretariat issued a statement noting that the government of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari "does not share, much less support" such a decision.

The U.S. Department of Defense announced on 13 November that it was establishing a joint special force made up of some 75 Marines at Fort Bills, near El Paso, Texas, to conduct intelligence and indirectly support missions in the struggle against drug trafficking on the Mexican border.

The Foreign Ministry stated that each country has the sovereign right to resort to the measures that it deems necessary for its interests, but their proximity obliges the two parties "to mutually consult one another, especially when there are indications that a unilateral decision might have negative consequences on the bilateral relationship."

"The Mexican Government wants to state clearly that it does not share, much less support, the measures announced on 13 November by the U.S. Department of Defense regarding the use of its Armed Forces in an area close to the common border."

The statement added that the decision might not only affect bilateral relations, but also "have an unfavorable effect on the normal course of legal daily activities in the border zone, without substantially resolving the grave and complex drug trafficking problem."

President Salinas Gives State of Nation Address

PA0511005389 Mexico City Television Service in Spanish 1702 GMT 1 Nov 89

[State of the nation address by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to the Mexican Congress in Mexico City—live]

[Text] Honorable Congress of the Union, Mexicans: For the first time, the regular period of sessions of the Mexican Congress opens on 1 November as a result of a constitutional amendment introduced in 1986. In compliance with my duty as stipulated in Article 69 of the Constitution, I am here today to report on the condition of the federal public administration. In addition, I am presenting a written report with an annex, which details and expands on this report.

Eleven months ago, in compliance with the Constitution and the law, its objectives, and traditions, I was sworn in to lead Mexico toward change. This period has been one of intense work, turning my campaign promises into facts because the people demanded it from me. The demand for change is persistent, definite, and urgent throughout the country. The clamor for change demands justice, security, jobs, services, education, health, housing, food supplies, and a clean environment. These voices also demand both greater participation in public life and electoral processes in which impartiality, certainty, and mutual respect and recognition prevail. This demand for a new democratic relationship between citizens and the authorities is based on a good faith dialogue, responsible agreement, and obedience to the law. I made a commitment for this change because it ensures Mexico's continuity in history. The search for a change in favor of freedom and justice has been essential to the movement of our society.

The Mexico of today is the result of the work of generations who never lost faith in themselves. These generations knew at all times how to act to turn into a reality the nation that the men of independence, reform, and the revolution dreamed about. For this reason, the demand for a change in Mexico is not occasional or recent. The difficulties of the recent past were opportunities for a more intense expression of what have always been the nation's efforts at transformation. Acknowledging what we have been able to do is the beginning of confidence. Acknowledging the needs of our society, our backwardness, and the new challenges that change has brought about is the beginning of realism. Without trusting ourselves, we will never be able to solve our problems. Without realism, hope becomes disappointment and resentment. No change will last without keeping in mind what was and will always be essential. However, there will be no change either if we only passively contemplate the past. The future we aspire to must be the realization of the dreams of our ancestors and the desires of our children. With realism and confidence, we will work with today's means to make sense of the efforts of the past so those who will follow us can make sense of our struggles. This is the loyalty that counts and is worthy of working for without trying to inject the country with arrogance, without becoming paralyzed by making the same mistakes over and over again, without asserting that everything must change and come to an end in the course of an administration.

A great transformation has occurred in the world in the past few years. The political, military, and economic panorama of the postwar years has quickly been displaced by a less predictable yet multipolar, highly competitive, and technologically revolutionary scenario, highly capable of affecting life in all countries. Changes do not recognize borders, respect ideologies, or take into account development levels. Not all the nations that we know presently will survive as sovereign states. None of them has its future ensured, because the world will not wait.

No nation can be certain it will survive unless its people work with patriotism. Some nations that make changes are broken apart by the burden of conflicts and discord.

Some nations that make no changes are polarized by the pressure resulting from the need to make changes. We must make changes to become stronger, and we will do it while being aware of what is important for Mexico.

Sovereignty is fundamental for the nation. The political ability of the Mexicans to be independent from other nations is fundamental. Without sovereignty there would be no sense in setting goals for ourselves because they would no longer be our goals.

I have proposed the modernization of Mexico as the strategy for making changes. There is no single modernization concept, and there is no modernization concept that is always applicable. No historic process or development is a product of fate. Changes take place based on the domestic situation of each nation, on their needs and goals, and in response to external changes. This is why only work and the firm will to govern themselves will permit the people of each nation to remain strong and sovereign.

Modernization is not an abstract concept useful only for academic-type debates. Modernization means changing the organizational structure of our country to produce wealth and well-being and to distribute this wealth equitably. It means a commitment to respect the initiatives of the community as well as personal achievements. It means giving more participation to citizens and social organizations in the organization and leadership of the state.

Modernization is aimed at strengthening the country—an unrenounceable task—through unity, democracy, and social justice, the only way of securing Mexico's sovereignty and becoming a nation with a stronger status in today's modern world.

In view of transformations in the community of nations, Mexico has chosen the road of a nationalist and popular modernization. This is the best way of defending sovereignty and the fastest way of improving the well-being of the Mexican people.

Today's Mexico has the means to do it. Our origin is a social revolution. This social revolution provided us with principles and a solid institutional structure that have allowed us to successfully face most difficult moments. This is our most important political resource. Inaction, in the face of all we have to do, is most contrary to the ideals of the Mexican revolution.

Modernization is the way to fulfill the mandate of the Mexican revolution. We will change because we want to turn the ideals of the revolution into a reality. There is nothing more revolutionary than to earn more respect for Mexico, to make it stronger, to make political coexistence more democratic, to have growth while maintaining prices at a stable level, to permanently provide job opportunities, and to make possible a better standard of living for all Mexicans.

Sovereignty and justice, democracy and liberty: This is what a revolution without myths is. This is the revolution that the people view as theirs. This is why the people support it and will make it go forward. History has established the priorities of modernization. The general interest is above private interests and those who have the least must receive the most. Unity must be based on agreements that are well thought out and reached lawfully and freely.

This is a strategy of changes to live forever and to become stronger. This is the strategy of modernization. This is why modernization is the guideline and the essence of the changes. It is a guideline to reach the national objectives of sovereignty, justice, democracy, and liberty. It is the essence because it will reach the basic structures of society and permeate daily behavior and habits. All this, to produce a new political culture.

Modernization implies a new attitude. It means facing changing situations with optimism and eagerness. It is a disposition to create, renovate, and imagine, and to change whatever may detain or obstruct our progress. Modernization demands efficiency to achieve goals. It calls for all the energy of all the members of society. I proposed three national agreements for modernizing Mexico: one on improving our democratic life, another on national recovery with stability of prices, and one on productively improving the standard of living of the people.

These agreements are the backbone of the 1989-1994 national development plan, which is already under way. They are the means to organize the state and society's efforts to modernize Mexico. The efficient fulfillment of these three national accords entails reforming the state and its relationship with society and its citizens.

The Mexican revolution was created to strengthen the nation's sovereignty and ensure that the fatherland would in fact incorporate everyone in its actions, to ensure the exercising of individual freedoms, and to promote a basic social equality that would give everyone—beginning with those who have the least—material support to ensure that their freedoms would not become a mere formalism, but genuine opportunities to attain a better life.

The revolution has not only aimed to create a strong state but also an emancipated society that is able to determine its own fate. It wanted to create a vigorous labor movement protected by rights, which does not shy away from its responsibilities regarding the country's overall productivity. It implemented agrarian reform not only to free peasants from the exploitation of large estate owners, but also from the red tape of bureaucracy and the disgrace of living among a minority that has, socially speaking, not yet come of age.

The revolution also promoted national industrialization as an instrument for progress and organized work, and not to create captive markets to benefit a few. It envisioned nationalist schools contributing to the full development of human beings to promote Mexican talent, not as a position, but as a reflection of the universality of culture, and it defined the nation's original property and strategic areas, but never considered creating an exclusive and excluding state monopoly.

Our nation has undergone many reforms in the name of the revolution. They brought about extraordinary levels of growth and development to our fatherland. However, the latter decades of the 20th Century surprised us with the emergence of an international climate characterized by greater competition and technological changes, and a more complex, informed, and participatory Mexican society.

In the face of this new domestic and external situation, the effects of most reforms of our revolution have worn out. They can no longer guarantee the new development demanded by our country. Therefore, we must introduce changes in the state, promote new ways to organize production, and create new models for participation and political relationships.

Our generations were educated under the assumption that greater state participation was tantamount to more justice. For many years, when we had to promote large social organizations and the country's industrialization, the state created public branches and organizations to channel resources and incentives and to build the infrastructure and services; it implemented a protectionist policy and a policy of subsidies to support small and large initial efforts; and it acquired companies facing financial difficulties to save the places of employment and support production networks.

In view of the results, we can say today that we did not always make the most appropriate decisions. The truth is that they were part of an overall concept of what the public role should be, a concept that was in keeping with the time. Nobody can deny that as a whole it was a policy that brought about very significant successes in comparison to many other countries.

However, the situation has changed. Mexico changed, and the world changed. What guaranteed growth and increased well-being became the direct obstacles to achieving those same goals. The crisis taught us that a larger state is not necessarily a more capable state; a state that owns more property today is not a more just state. The reality is that in Mexico a larger state was tantamount to a decrease in the state's ability to meet our compatriots' social demands, and in the end, the state itself grew weaker.

While the public sector's productive activity was increasing, its attention to potable water, health, countryside investments, food, housing, environment, and justice were decreasing. The state was growing larger while the people's well-being was deteriorating. This drift away from social needs took place not only because the ever-larger parastate companies monopolized financial resources, but also because they diverted the government's political attention. In practice, the state was busier managing its properties than meeting the most pressing social needs.

This is why we are conducting reform—to return to the state that was originally proposed in the Mexican revolution. This reform can simultaneously ensure the sovereignty of our nation and administer justice for our countrymen. This decade of crisis lowered the standard of living of the population in an unprecedented manner and destroyed the myths that were zealously guarded by a minority who profited from the state's gigantism, never stopping to think about the fate of millions of their countrymen, the asphyxiation of the social initiative, and the political bureaucracy. The thesis that linked state control with progress emerged in the world as the result of the failure of the ultraindividualism of the 1920's, the market's failed self-regulation, and the great depression that followed. This thesis was undoubtedly valuable in the 1930's and the 1940's. It was a banner of justice in its time. Today, however, this thesis only defends the privileges of old social classes that cling to the status quo. The remarkable successes of state intervention in the past, which contributed to nearly 4 decades of steady growth, were gradually dimmed by a tendency to make the state responsible for the entire economy. This prevented regulating the mixed economy.

As it has already been pointed out, in a complex society such as ours, there are constitutional duties and economic obligations that the state must attend to because of the market's insufficiency and social inequalities. Popular causes, however, can only be defended and improved through a modern state that guarantees sovereignty and turns justice into reality in a framework of justice, encouraging the people's organized participation and basically siding with those who own less. Each week I visit low-income neighborhoods, Indian communities, rural towns, and the country's poorest areas. The demands I hear are always the same. They require services, security, and the considerate attention of their public servants. In view of these demands, what is the fundamental responsibility of a state that today attempts to remain loyal to its origins and revolutionary commitments? I ask: If defending sovereignty is equivalent to protecting the Mexicans from the hegemonic intentions of other nations, whom shall we protect inside our borders? For this reason, sovereignty and justice need and complement each other in the modern world.

A state unable to attend to the basic social demands of its population is not strong enough to participate in the full defense of national sovereignty. This is why the nationalism expressed in the Constitution is not associated with an increasingly proprietory state but an increasingly just state. It is politically and morally imperative for us to return to the original purpose of the revolution. We must ensure for our modern society a reformed state in the spirit of the people's sovereignty of 1917. In a great vision, and in view of the abuses regarding land ownership and overexploitation of the subsoil resources during President Porfirio Diaz' administration, Article 27 of the Queretaro Constituent Document stipulated that the nation is the original land owner. The nation, in turn, could transfer this ownership to private individuals according to the public interest. In the initiative on Article 27 of the Constitution Bill, which, with Article 123, turned a political debate into a social discussion, there are two basic premises that indicate the spirit of the final text in the Constitution. First, Article 27 turned the state into an instrument of economic reform. Second, it determined that the nation would retain control of whatever was necessary for social development, as the constituent assembly members pointed out.

Thus, a mixed economy was created, respecting private property, establishing state control, and preserving the peoples' right to joint land ownership. For this reason, ownership of natural resources, as stipulated by the Constitution, and control of the strategic enterprises that exploit these resources directly, are irreversible. For this reason, ownership and control of Petroleos Mexicanos, the basic petrochemical industry; the Federal Energy Commission; radioactive minerals and the generation of nuclear energy; railroads; mail; satellite communication; and basic social institutions, such as CONASUPO [National Company for Basic Commodities], are irreversible.

However, a state that cannot take care of the people's needs because it is too busy managing enterprises is neither just nor revolutionary. It strays from the founding spirit of Article 27 of the Constitution. A large, overburdened state ends up being weak, not only before its workers, peasants, businessmen, and poor and middle classes, but before the whole world. The disincorporation of non-strategic government enterprises today responds to a principle of faithfulness to the state's social and nationalistic nature.

To disincorporate enterprises does not mean to give up regulating and directing national development, because the state's only duty is not the ownership of the enterprises, but basically the exercise of its authority for the benefit of the people.

Privatization does not place development in hands other than those of the state. On the contrary, the state now has the resources, attention, and opportunity to use the formidable instruments of revenue, duties, public prices, subsidies, and the strength of the strategic enterprises to determine the direction of development and to make a reality of the project that the nation demands.

It is not a case of arguing whether the private sector is a better administrator than the government, or who does more business. There are honest and very competent government administrators. However, the main point in the reform of the states is to resolve, in favor of the people, the dilemma between managing enterprises or dispensing justice; between a state with more ownership or one with more justice. The economy, more open to nongovernment initiative and investment, will undoubtedly be conducted in a way to serve national goals of sovereignty and justice.

The world is so competitive today that we require great complexes to face the huge multinational companies. When our economy was closed we ran the risks that these complexes would act as monopolies. Now, with the opening of the economy and the greater strengthening of the state, we will avoid improper practices that might have affected the country's interest and harmed citizens and their families.

In this way, the change will be imposed on us, not by foreign conditions or by private domestic interests, but from the will of the Mexicans. A mixed economy is obtained not only from the balance of government ownership and private ownership. The country's mixed economy can be expanded within the civilian society without any more government ownership. The workers' participation in the privatized enterprises is an example of this. By selling governnment enterprises, we are not only respecting labor organizations and ratifying workers' rights, but we are also allowing the workers to participate in the ownership of the enterprises and to benefit from their expansion. That is how the privatization of government enterprises brings with it the democratization of capital.

By moving from increasing ownership to greater shared social responsibility, the reformed state links democracy to justice. The state channels resources and attention to turn proposals and programs into realities. By doing so, it promotes the people's participation and organization. The people demand participation in programs that resolve their most pressing needs. This is why by responding to these social demands, the state does not do so substituting community commitment for individual initiative. These programs must include the organized participation of the community, and this is a great incentive for democratization in poor neighborhoods in the rural areas and Indian regions.

Today, the state is more representative of the people and attentive to the issues that it deems are priority, that are urgent needs. The state offers a framework of effective freedom and security for the citizens, so they may carry out their autonomous activities. An essential element of its reform has been to show throughout the year that the state has the capability to enforce all rights, that no individuals or groups are above the law. Impunity generates corruption and arrogance, and it goes against the interests of society.

Today, the state confirms the law, and the legal standards that rule our life are being fully implemented. The state safeguards the interests of Mexicans. In this manner, in Mexico as well as in many countries of the world, the state is leaving dogmas behind to come closer to the people. The old-fashioned idea that confused being progressive with being statist has been left behind.

Today, being progressive is measured by the capacity to defend the sovereignty of the nation and to take justice to the people. Being progressive is measured by practices and results, not by rhetoric. Being progressive is measured by the capacity to create a democratically strong state that will guarantee national independence in the face of the tremendous world transformation that is under way. Being progressive means encouraging individual liberties and, at the same time, the people's organized participation so that by these means we will obtain a fairer distribution of wealth and well-being for the population.

Because of all this, the state that Mexico needs will support its behavior by exercising quality authority based on a concerted effort. It should renew its profile to meet its basic functions, fully opening to the participation of society, strongly promoting national interest in the world, and reaffirming its democratic reasons for holding public power.

I have come to the honorable Congress of the union to report on what we have done to modernize the country and reform the state, and to show why we are a nation that is respected throughout the world, why we are moving toward new political understandings among ourselves, why we are already beginning to recover, and why we insist we are going to achieve greater justice among all Mexicans.

Mexico's foreign policy is the basic tool used by the state to strengthen national sovereignty. Our traditional—currently constitutional—principles bring together the lessons of our history. Observance of these principles is the foundation of a broad consensus within our borders, and of acknowledged prestige beyond them. Their value does not conflict with their efficiency.

In these times of fast-breaking changes, awareness of our principles makes it easier for us to interpret events, to discern Mexico's interests, and to take advantage of opportunities without falling prey to opportunism. Under the guidance of our principles, our foreign policy includes flexible use of the tools of diplomacy: respectful, open, and beneficial bilateral relations, and the active promotion of our interests at multilateral organizations and forums.

This year has been unusually intense in political contacts abroad. I have met with 29 heads of state or government. In every case I have proven that Mexico is increasingly respected the world over. Our country has earned singular recognition, and today there is great interest in what happens here. The serious, sustained, and profound efforts Mexican society has made to overcome adversity and open up a horizon of well-being for itself are known and valued. Mexico's voice is stronger, its dialogue capabilities broader, its message to the world clearer and more effective.

Alert to our borders, my government has sought new bases for Mexico's relations with neighboring countries: The United States of America to the north; Guatemala and Belize to the south; and Cuba, where our national waters form a border. These relations are especially important for increasing our security and setting our goals. Relations with the United States of America have a special meaning for Mexico. We reject confrontation because it is senseless, and we consider submissiveness offensive to our deepest convictions. Without ignoring the difficult past, we march with certainty toward the future. Our relations will never be easy with such a powerful neighbor, the most complex border in the world, and such a history of extreme aggressions. Nonetheless, our relations do not have to be bad or tense all the time. The cordiality that exists today can be explained, because topics of common interest require cooperative actions. Our market today is more open than that of the United States. This gives us a positive approach in our trade relations. For reasons of state and to preserve the health of Mexican families, we fight strongly against drug trafficking. Since this is a problem that strongly worries our northern neighbor, shared views on the way to fight it also benefit Mexico.

The renegotiation of the foreign debt was important for Mexico as well as the United States and this is why they helped. We want a cleaner environment, from the interior to the border. The United States and Mexico agree in this concern. We promote the defense of the Mexicans who are working in the United States and who are indispensable to the economy of that country. We coincide in recognizing political, economic, and cultural changes in the world, and we firmly maintain the principles of nonintervention and self-determination of the peoples, especially in Latin America.

The positive and respectful climate in our relations does not stem from a change in our principles, but from a change of circumstances. Since this has occurred, through political will we have been able to expand our views, reciprocate in our trade, and maintain cordial attitudes under the invariable rule of respecting our principles and our differences. Within this new spirit, I accepted an invitation extended to me by President Bush to make an official visit to his country in October, and we were able to translate this spirit into specific agreements for the direct benefit of all Mexicans. We are getting better and broader access for our products on the U.S. market; this is currently being done with our steel and textiles and the generalized preferential system, and soon we will tear down the nontariff barriers for our priority sectors. We seek to establish, with labor unions and state governments on both sides of the border, new mechanisms to defend the labor and human rights of migrant workers. We have broadened the exchange of information in our common struggle against drug trafficking with the understanding that the responsibility for all operations in our territory is strictly a matter for the Mexican people. We established efficient mechanisms to protect the environment along the border and in Mexico City. We have gone from consultations to solve old differences and have reached decisions to open up new opportunities. Trade reciprocity, more investment, and more jobs in Mexico are the result of the new agreement.

I visited the Guatemalan border area and held a positive and cordial dialogue with the president of that respected and friendly neighboring country. During my meeting with the prime minister of Canada, I was able to see that country's new interest in Mexico and Latin America and the great potential for cooperation that exists between our nations.

We seek to strengthen our economic and cultural relations with Cuba. In the field of finances, we reached an agreement that is responsible and sensitive to the situation of the two countries.

A few days ago I was visited by the prime minister of Jamaica. Our meeting confirmed the desire of the two nations to expand trade exchange. Mexico is interested in having a greater presence in the Caribbean area because of its tourist potential and its strategic position. Our priority relations with Latin America have also been renewed. The permanent mechanism for consultation and political concert, known as the Rio Group, has been institutionalized without bureaucratic strictness and has become the framework for dialogue and joint initiatives. This, more and more, allows our nations to speak with a single voice before the international forums.

During the presidential meeting of this group held in Ica, Peru in October, we defined specific plans for greater cultural exchange and better physical integration of the region. We recognized that stability of the exchange rate and trade opening are the necessary conditions for real Latin American economic integration. We agreed to set dates and reach agreements to tear down the tariff barriers to trade among our countries. With ambitious goals, but with firm and realistic steps, we will advance with hope and not with frustrations.

With Venezuela and Colombia, we began an effort for joint cooperation by setting common goals. Twenty agreements between governments and eight among businessmen were signed during the state visit to those countries in July.

We also renewed, along with Venezuela, the San Jose Pact concerning oil cooperation with Central America and the Caribbean. The pact proposes practical and realistic actions aimed at sponsoring new and more ambitious projects. We must not let our hopes be dashed because we did not take into consideration the means needed to attain them.

The Central American situation is still critical, but hopes have been renewed, given the people's desire for peace and their governments' will, which is now stronger. A population explosion, a lengthy war, and a deep economic crisis have created a new willingness for reconciliation and cooperation within and among the Central American nations. We respectfully support these efforts, which are also beneficial for Mexico and the hemisphere. I confirmed this during the positive and cordial dialogue I held with the president of Costa Rica in a visit to that nation.

Regarding Panama, my government defended the principle of nonintervention, the Panamanian people's right to self-determination, and the enforcement of the canal treaties. However, we clearly noted this defense does not mean protecting those who have prevented the development of that nation.

I went to France for an official visit in July on the occasion of the French Revolution's bicentennial, and I availed myself of the occasion to make important contacts with the heads of state of the most industrialized nations. These contacts expedited the final phase of Mexico's foreign debt renegotiation.

During my visit to Spain, we managed to reduce the Mexican debt with Spanish banks, and we set the groundwork for a general treaty of cooperation and friendship. Spain represents a close cultural presence for us, but it also represents a preferential road of access to Europe in the future.

We received the visit of Denmark's prime minister, given the interest in increasing our exchange with this nation and the Scandinavian countries. We are interested in increasing our presence in a united Europe and attracting even more its attention toward Mexico at a time when the EEC prepares to eliminate the barriers existing among its members and to create the largest market in the world in 1992.

My administration intends to increase Mexico's presence in the Pacific Basin, the most dynamic zone of economic growth and technological innovation, so we are reorienting our diplomatic and consular actions in the region. During the Japanese prime minister's visit to Mexico, we discussed the possibility of increasing our exports to the competitive Japanese market and of increasing that country's industrial and tourism investments in Mexico. We sponsored an increase in our cultural exchange, a more dynamic transfer of scientific and technological experience, financial support, and ecological cooperation for Mexico City.

Our country maintains its active participation in multilateral forums, particularly in the United Nations and the OAS, with whose secretaries general I have held meetings. During the 11th conference for the abolishment of nuclear weapons, I reasserted our pledge to sponsor effective disarmament. The difficulties in achieving this goal should not discourage the defense of this principle for civilized coexistence.

Our role in the international sector has been active, dignified, and wise. Given the seriousness of its efforts and its positive contribution toward world peace and cooperation, Mexico is now more respected among nations. Our independence is thus strengthened even more.

The Armed Forces represent a bastion in the defense of our national sovereignty. The Army, Air Force, and Navy help protect strategic installations for our national security and economy. They exert themselves on a daily basis to support the community, protect the civilian population, carry out our health campaigns, and safeguard our natural resources. They have frequently played a leading role in the defense of the population, such as providing free transportation to users in Mexico City, struggling against fires in Quintana Roo, and participating in the deactivation and transfer of 600 tons of explosives which endangered the lives of 35,000 citizens during a recent strike in Cananea.

The Armed Forces have increased their struggle against drug trafficking. A daily average of almost 14,000 men are deployed in these operations. The destruction of poppy and marijuana fields, the seizure of weapons, vehicles, and aircraft, the confiscation of opium paste and cocaine, and the arrest of drug traffickers have significantly increased. I honor the soldiers who sacrifice their lives and health for Mexico's security and health.

The men and women of the Armed Forces are a determining factor in the efficient performance of their delicate mission. We encourage professional advancement and an improved standard of living for them and their families with programs that serve to satisfy their needs for housing, health, education, and welfare. By emerging from the lower classes, they earn the consideration and respect not only of the government, but also of the people. With them, the fatherland is safe, because they totally give themselves to the mission, whatever the expense or sacrifice, even with their very lives. I give my recognition to their superiors and to each and every one of them.

The agreement to broaden our democratic life within the framework of the republic's Constitution serves to guide the government's political action. In an organized society, and especially in a more democratic and modern society, the guidance the state may give requires social participation. Democracy is nothing more than the will of society carried out by the government. Article 3 of the Constitution outlines the state's obligation to encourage democratic development, linked closely with justice. Democracy is described as an authentic way of life by a society that today is more mature, more pluralistic, more participative, and more critical. However, this society is at the same time more aware of the value of unity in a world of profound changes.

My government's basic purpose has been to preserve the rule of law. Only by abiding by the law are we able to build the new consensus and favor the new demands that modern national politics require. The actions we have undertaken have been in strict compliance with the law. Corporations in charge of public security have been strengthened through more professional training and increased resources to combat crime. We still have a long road to go to improve the behavior of these corporations toward the community. We will continue working on this, also protecting the welfare of the corporations' family members. Crime prevention mechanisms were improved, as well as the return into society of those who may have broken the law.

As far as the executive branch that I head is concerned, I have seen and will continue to see that justice is observed, especially when crimes affect those who are less able to defend themselves. The constitutional precepts of freedom of speech, worship, and ideas have been undeniably respected. New courts have been created for more effective human rights protection and to prevent abuse of authority against the people. We promoted agreements through the state governors and through decrees by local legislative bodies to pardon 1,400 fellow citizens who, moved by social claims, committed crimes. We are also considering reforming the common penal code of Mexico City, as well as the republic's federal laws, which would extend the benefit of pardon for deserving cases.

The final purpose is to encourage harmony among Mexicans for the great tasks our society demands. Respect and cooperation with legislative and judiciary branches are my personal conviction and are a constitutional rule. We particularly have supported the judicial branch whenever they requested it. The executive branch has maintained its respectful relationship with the Supreme Court, and in general with the judicial branch, strengthening the necessary steps to ease their task as a constitutional tribunal. The government has sought to broaden the creative power of states and municipalities by having them take part in major national decisions. The government has tried to ensure, with due respect to all levels of government autonomy, that the struggle for justice and law that Mexicans demand reaches all corners of the fatherland equally.

The struggle against corruption in public administration is the government's obligation, but also the obligation of society itself, which must report corruption and abstain from taking part in illegal actions. We have increased and strengthened preventive actions in control, checking, and evaluation of public behavior, which encourage institutional productivity, improve work habits, and ensure the efficient and honest handling of resources managed by the state. We have strengthened the Justice Department and its auxiliary bodies to better impart justice. We have also improved wages and social benefits to the federal police.

The Prosecutor General's Office has dealt smashing blows to drug trafficking organizations, dismantling 188 of them and detaining close to 9,000 people. We will continue to intensify this struggle to protect national security and dispel the families' concern over the ravages that drug addiction can cause in Mexican youths.

As of October, elections had been held in 10 states. Political activities in the country were intense and sometimes heated. This year's elections forced political parties to adapt themselves to the new reality of the varied ideological spectrum typical of the Mexican society at present. Power was carefully exercised, always abiding by the law. For the first time in Mexico's modern history, a citizen of a national opposition party will assume office today as state governor. The people's will was obeyed.

The society's political maturity has been shown by the recognition of all true victories. [Salinas is interrupted at this point by several voices shouting in the background, and a bell is rung to silence the voices]

Listening to a general demand, on 1 December I invited the political parties to a dialogue to amend the electoral law. Public hearings and consultations lasting 3 months were held at both the Chamber of Deputies and the Federal Electoral Commission. In these meetings, party representatives, analysts, public leaders, specialists, intellectuals, and men and women of renowned prestige made proposals on how to improve the electoral processes. This was a true dialogue in the nation. All political parties presented initiatives. During the special sessions period, those in attendance approved an important constitutional amendment that outlines a more impartial electoral organization, a more equitable representation system, and a more accurate evaluation process.

However, not one party received the sufficient number of votes to amend the Constitution by itself. Consequently, this amendment was the result of an intense confrontation of viewpoints. The solution found was agreed upon by the parties. Those who supported the solution yielded part of their convictions to advance their interests and those of Mexico. The fact that an agreement was reached on a particularly controversial matter like this demonstrates the ability of the differing political forces to hold a dialogue and reach a consensus. The nature of the amendment goes as far as the consensus between the largest parliamentary factions in the Congress permitted. The parliamentary accord indicates the people's will and now binds all equally. We hope that these amendments, once they are ratified by state legislatures and detailed in the bylaws, will lead to actions in accordance with the new times. In 1991, these amendments will serve as the framework for a transparent federal electoral process, whose results will be accepted by all. [applause]

We will have to keep updating the electoral process. My government was and is committed to maintaining this effort, and it will keep on asking all political parties to join it. The government is aware that the difficulties of the transition in the unprecedented situation demands a change of mentality by everyone. I have invited all political parties to talk. Most of them have accepted this invitation responsibly and seriously. This invitation is still open. [applause]

Changes must originate with citizens, parties, and the government. In particular, let us take firm steps in the prompt preparation of the national citizens' registry and the corresponding personal identity card. Modernization forces us to change our stances and adopt a new political culture based on dialogue, tolerance, agreement, respect, recognition of everyone's rights, and strict compliance with the commitments that the country's interest imposes on us.

The government has promoted an honest exercise of authority and public duty. It has respected all criticism, especially that made in good faith, because it recognizes that such criticism constitutes an irreplaceable means for finding options, defining paths, and nourishing a healthy relationship between state and society. [applause]

The national accord to achieve economic recovery through price stability has defined the economic goals of the government and society for the past 11 months. [At this point, a voice shouts indistinctly, and then an unidentified speaker says: "Mr Legislator, I wish to attentively remind you that Article 69 of the political Constitution of the United Mexican States and Article 8 of the Charter of Congress state that this is a general congress session that should only deal with the following issues: the installation of Congress, receiving and listening to the chief federal executive's report, and issuing a reply to this report. Therefore, no interpellation is authorized. You may proceed, Mr President."] [applause]

The national accord to achieve economic recovery through price stability has defined the economic goals of the government and society in the past 11 months. In the 1989-1994 national development plan, we aim to maintain growth in three major ways: consolidation of economic stability, broadening of resources for investment, and modernization of productive capacity.

Today, we clearly recognize our objectives, have resources to make them viable, and are determined to persevere until we achieve them. Permanent and just growth requires price stability. Mexicans have refused to live with high inflation. We have found a strategic answer in the pact. It has not been an easy or pleasing reply, but it is working, because we have successfully combined social cooperation and fiscal discipline.

In this way, we reduced the annual accumulated consumer price index from nearly 200 percent in December 1987 to 17 percent in September 1989, the lowest index in over a decade. In the first 6 months of this year, Mexican production grew in real terms by 2.4 percent in comparison to the same period in 1988.

This behavior allows us to predict that our 1.5 percent growth target for 1989 will be surpassed and that we will register a rate that is 2.5 and 3 percent higher in real terms than the population growth rate. The number of Mexican Social Security Institute affiliates has increased by 8 percent per year, and total wages for manufacturing industry workers have increased by 14 percent in real terms.

Productive development has not been artificially promoted. Public finances have been subjected to the strictest discipline. Monetary, financial, and credit policies have been managed in keeping with market behavior. The dynamism of demand stems from greater confidence on the part of investors and greater purchasing power, although this varies from region to region in the country.

Therefore, we are growing again at a higher rate than expected, in fact, faster than desirable [as heard]. We cannot change the pace of our recovery because the lack of investment in infrastructure during the crisis years would provoke bottlenecks and inflationary pressure today.

This is why our economic policy aims to moderate the dynamism of demand while promoting an expansion of supply. Obtaining an annual six percent growth rate by the end of my administration—as foreseen by the national development plan—is an ambitious but realistic goal. To ensure that it will be maintained, we must gradually achieve this rate.

Without balanced public finances we would have no lasting price stability. During the first half of 1989, the public financial deficit was reduced by 60 percent in real terms in comparison to 1 year ago. This was partly possible due to a drop in interest rates brought about by lower inflation and the foreign debt renegotiation.

Primary surplus, or the difference between revenue and expenditures other than debt interest, increased by 31 percent during the same period. Public expenditures remained at levels consistent with the need to keep inflation low and support the refinancing of the foreign debt. Social priorities, however, were met by these expenditures. Income tax collection between January and June increased by nearly 23 percent over the same period in 1988. The two-percent tax on corporate assets has contributed to making those who own more pay more taxes. Because this tax is deductible from the income tax, it will not harm those who pay it. Lower tax rates [tasas marginales de gravamen], simpler tax return procedures, and better tax collection systems encourage voluntary tax payment. Without trying to persecute taxpayers, we have not hesitated to punish tax evaders. Our exchange policy has reconciled lower inflation with the peso's competitiveness. The accrued small-scale devaluation between January and September was 13 percent. If we add international inflation to this, the increase in the cost of goods abroad is higher than the price increase that producers have to pay. This increase was slightly higher than 10 percent.

The international oil price is now higher. In July, nonoil exports increased by more than eight percent over those in the same month last year. Because of the commercial opening and economic activity, imports, which had decreased, are now on the rise. [sentence as heard] Thus, the annual import growth rate dropped from 50 percent in January to 14 percent in July. Our commercial surplus reached $381 million in this period. As the result of the behavior of the various components of the balance of payment, the country's international reserves at the Bank of Mexico reached $7.324 billion yesterday. With this, the Mexican peso is soundly backed on the exchange markets.

At my swearing-in ceremony I instructed the secretary of finance and public credit to renegotiate the foreign debt on four premises: lower the transfer of resources to levels compatible with our growth goals, reduce the accrued carryover debt, accrue resources for a period of time to eliminate the uncertainty of yearly negotiations, and lower the true value of the debt and its ratio of GNP. Negotiations were tense, intense, and were almost suspended at certain points. We were trying to change the previous renegotiation processes, which only led to postponing payment of the principal. We needed to reduce the size of the debt, which had never been achieved between a country and the world's creditor commercial banks. After reaching agreements with the IMF, the World Bank, and the so-called Paris Club, which accepted Mexico's program—which this (?sovereign government) had approved in the documents containing our views on matters of economic policy as a basis for negotiation—we reached an agreement with creditor commercial banks on 23 July.

The negotiations were conducted firmly but without confrontations. The negotiations stuck to the indicated premises and were basically concluded in a period of time which, although it sometimes appeared to be unattainable, appears to be short now that we consider it in retrospect. It was necessary to change the thinking of the governments of the industrialized countries and to harmonize the diverse interests of more than 500 banks. Politically speaking, the governments accepted that Mexico was morally right. Financially speaking, the banks accepted the technical arguments of our negotiators. Three formulas were agreed upon: either lower the debt by 35 percent, establish a 6.25 percent fixed interest rate, or supply fresh funds for 4 years. These parameters indicate that the available guarantees were used very wisely. This was better than trying to reacquire the debt at secondary market rates.

Very few additional advantages could have been gained by extending negotiations in the face of the costs of domestic uncertainty and the risk of losing the right political moment gained internationally. We hope that in the next few weeks most banks will opt to reduce the debt or the amount serviced. However, we also hope that in each country some larger banks decide to provide fresh funds and thus commit themselves to Mexico's development. The debt agreement is sufficient because it gives us breathing space to once again grow, and it reduces remittances of funds abroad, to which we must add the additional positive effects derived from greater domestic confidence. The weeks that followed the announcement caused domestic interest rates to drop 20 points, the equivalent of saving 5 percent of GNP to service the domestic debt. So far this year, repatriation of capital has reached nearly $3 billion, and from May to now, promises of foreign investment projects have reached nearly $2 billion. All these positive effects complement and reinforce the satisfactory result of the renegotiation. Our negotiators fulfilled their duty and fulfilled it well. [applause]

Negotiating the debt is no guarantee that our problems will be resolved, but by not negotiating the debt it would have been impossible to resolve these problems. To grow now requires investment of the funds freed by the negotiations to complement greater domestic savings. We cannot expect a sudden improvement in the standard of living. We shall see the results of our productive efforts in a gradual growth recovery, and we shall raise the population's welfare in accordance with this growth. To increase savings and steer them toward investments, we are bent on modernizing the financial system. Freeing the interest rates and terms means an end to obligatory credit to the government and an end to excessive regulations. The creation of new instruments now allows banks to effectively compete to capture savings. The banks are recovering lost ground. Simultaneously, we are beginning to modernize development banks so subsidies can benefit those who need them, avoid fund diversions, make handling clear, and eliminate the bureaucracy and inefficiency that characterize them. In ending its restructuring, NAFINSA [National Finance Bank, Inc.] will soon recover its vocational and promotional capacity. Similar actions are taking place in BAN[illegible]RAS [National Bank of Public Works and Services, Corp[illegible] and in the Foreign Trade Bank. We emphasize in-house self-regulation for stock exchanges and other financial middlemen, supervised by the authorities, so as to protect public interests. We are working to take advantage of the enormous potential in insurance policies, sureties, and pension funds. We now have clearer rules that we are following.

We face the greatest challenge to economic modernization in Mexican agriculture. Demographic pressures and very adverse climatic conditions for a 2d consecutive year have added to age-old deficiencies and structural defects, forming a complex and worrisome outlook. Between 1965 and now, the arable surface has increased only 12 percent and cattle farming areas 45 percent, while the population has increased by almost 100 percent. Productivity has stagnated and subsidies are a major part of the federal budget. Importation of raw materials will reach 9.5 million tons in 1989, and according to estimates, a similar figure is expected for 1990. For the sake of Mexicans' food supply and the welfare of the peasants, we cannot allow the deterioration of this strategic sector to continue. During the period covering this report, the government has taken action to face up to this situation, but we need to do more and in greater depth to reverse this process.

Legal security for land ownership is the basis for modernizing agriculture. The initial challenge is to consolidate the distribution process, resolving accumulated legal and material impediments. To date, presidential resolutions have been enforced on an area exceeding 600,000 hectares.

Likewise, 141,000 agrarian rights certificates have been issued in connection with the three constitutional forms of land ownership. The distribution of land en masse has concluded. Whoever claims that there are still millions of hectares for distribution is lying to approximately 2 million people who have requested land and more than 4 million agricultural workers. However, we must give them an answer. Thus, agrarian reform now means supporting production; respecting and sponsoring peasant and agrarian organizations; giving these organizations the responsibility of handling credits and fertilizers; managing commercial activities; and establishing efficient and viable rural industries to improve production, increase revenues, and create jobs for peasant children in the countryside.

The state will increase its support to agriculture, but the problems in our rural areas are not only the result of an improper channeling of resources. There also is, and has been, a lack of organization, inefficiency—even corruption. I have instructed the directors of institutions like BANRURAL [National Rural Credit Bank] and ANAGSA [National Agricultural and Livestock Insurance Company] to design, with the peasants' participation, modernization programs that will benefit them. Great efforts have been made to reach agreements with producers' organizations, and there are 78 agreements so far. These involve giving more support to infrastructure construction, primary production, agricultural and industrial manufactures, training programs, and social projects. These represent a new way of channeling public resources to the countryside by recognizing that peasants are capable of managing themselves, eliminating patronizing attitudes, and emphasizing the sharing of responsibilities. The state will continue to firmly support the peasants of Mexico. [applause]

Guaranteed prices have been adjusted within the economic pact's framework, and some of them, like wheat and soybeans, have been significantly adjusted in real terms even though the final prices have suffered no increase whatsoever. Solidarity with the countryside has been expressed in actions.

Meanwhile, cattle production had shown a tendency to decrease in recent years, but this has stopped. Access to export markets will strengthen the nation's cattle production and increase the capability to supply our internal market.

The National Water Commission was created and it became the only organization authorized to handle this issue so that it could face the challenge of providing an adequate supply of water, both in quantity and quality. The programs for supplying water in bulk amounts to the cities were strengthened, and progress has been achieved in the construction of 11 important aqueducts. Financial mechanisms have been improved for initiating rehabilitation programs, for increasing the use of our irrigation systems and small irrigation projects, and for supplying water to neglected communities. Making the best use of water in an efficient and equitable way, as potable water and in irrigation projects, continues to be a formidable challenge. The commission's main responsibility is to handle this problem effectively.

The overall exploitation of our forests will be promoted through forest development projects for the States of

Chihuahua, Durango, Oaxaca, and Guerrero. Technical services have been decentralized and we have encouraged the participation of peasants in protecting forests and improving local management. However, there is still much to be done to reach the production levels necessary to increase our peasants' well-being and to make our lumber industry more competitive.

The fishing industry requires systematic actions to develop its potential. We must satisfy demand, increase exports, exert our sovereign rights in the exclusive economic zone, and promote more harmonious participation of social and private sectors, particularly in the field of aquaculture. It has been estimated that fishing activities will increase 10 percent this year.

We have been very active in the oil field. The investment plan for Pemex [Mexican Petroleum] calls for balancing the exploration, exploitation, processing, and distribution phases. Reserve levels will be maintained in order to prevent the deterioration of production levels and to adjust exports in accordance with national needs. The reclassification of several petrochemical products from basic to secondary as a result of technological changes will free up public funds and will contribute to this freeing up while encouraging local production of petrochemical products.

We are working hard to increase the productivity of this strategic activity by establishing new labor relations that protect the workers' rights as well as the rights of all Mexicans, who are the real owners of this activity.

Generation of electricity will increase almost 8 percent in 1989, which is very high compared to general economic growth. A significant part of that increase will come from plants not requiring hydrocarbons.

To advance in the diversification of energy, we inaugurated hydroelectric plants in Aguamilpa, Nayarit, and Simapan, Hidalgo. Tests continued at the Laguna Verde Plant to optimize its operation and increase safety. We have proposed measures to efficiently use and save energy.... [At this point, loud voices interrupt Salinas, and then an unidentified speaker says: "I ask the members of this assembly to maintain order and to keep calm since interpellations are not allowed at General Congress sessions such as this one. Based on our parliamentary practices, which have been respected by all legislatures, when the chambers that compose the Congress of the Union meet to form a single assembly, according to Articles 69 and 8 of the Constitution, the chambers do not have any deliberative functions and interpellations have no legal basis. Go ahead, Mr President."] [applause]

Thank you. We have proposed measures to efficiently use and save energy to avoid excessive demands for this service in the next few years. Generating electrical energy will remain an exclusive responsibility of the state, as the Constitution establishes.

The mining sector has concentrated efforts to produce strategic minerals such as phosphoric rocks, sulfur, and coal. Sidermex [Mexican Iron and Steel Company] and Fertimex [Mexican Fertilizers] modernization programs are making progress.

In recent months, the country's communications and transport sectors have made big changes and great progress. Since it is necessary to make large investments to expand and redesign basic public structures, we have promoted issuing grants where the law allows it.

In this framework we have called for bidding on 15 projects to build an additional 1,500 km of highways over the next 3 years. Some of the projects are the Cuernavaca-Acapulco, Colima, Monterrey-Nuevo Laredo, Tijuana, Tecate-Mexicali, and the Jalisco Heights roads, as well as the Torreon-Cuencame project, which is a key element of the new program for the development of the lake.

Once the investments are recovered by the state, we will create jobs to put to full use machinery that is underutilized now, and modernize our road system.

With the cooperation of state governments, we have put into service 3,800 km of rural roads. The disincorporation of Mexicana de Aviacion Airlines will permit that enterprise to have enough capital to modernize and increase its fleet. Restrictions on chartered flights have been eliminated to promote tourism. The railroad system continues with its modernization process on a healthy financial basis and with a positive labor environment.

The modernization of the maritime port system has been accelerated with the removal of obstacles to permit higher efficiency. There is the new port of Progreso, which will allow Yucatan to efficiently establish links with international markets. There is the reconstruction of the bridge in Cozumel, Quintana Roo, and the works in Altamira, Tamaulipas. Works have been initiated in Topolobampo, Sinaloa, to turn this port into one of the most important on the Pacific side.

Telecommunications is one of the most dynamic sectors in the modern world, but one of the most stagnant sectors in Mexico. Large investments will be needed to produce the expected development and to renew its technological basis. The telecommunications sector and social priorities are in competition with each other over the assignment of resources, which is why it was decided to disincorporate Telephones of Mexico. The company's workers responsibly realized that since the Mexican State would maintain control over the enterprise, would direct telecommunications, would be co-owner of the enterprise, and would secure a substantial expansion of the enterprise, they, their families, and the country would benefit.

This is why at national assemblies they supported the concession decision that protects their source of employment, their labor rights, and their labor organization.

The concession decision will allow the state to exercise its authority in a modern and firmer way as well as provide broader and better services. Competition among services such as cellular telephones and teletext [teleinformatica] will be promoted to produce aggregate value, and competition for terminal equipment markets and investments on technological research and investigation will also be promoted.

Regarding satellite communications, the utilization of the Morelos I satellite has increased from 45 percent to 100 percent and the Morelos II is already in operation.

The suspension of regulations aims at promoting free participation and at eliminating unnecessary costs. This is an essential aspect of modernization. In the transportation sector, agreements were reached to eliminate rules that forced bus drivers to make route trips with empty buses, as well as rules that prevented the utilization of equipment that was not being used in one area in areas where it was needed. Ninety regulations that placed excessive stress on the presentation and characteristics of containers and packages, thus making products more expensive, were abolished.

The new regulation on foreign investments establishes clear and automatic procedures, eliminates bureaucratic decisions, and provides stronger legal guarantees.

By facilitating the paper work necessary to comply with the law, we are promoting investments that benefit the country.

Industrial promotion policy has been aimed at modernizing the local industrial sector so that it is in a position to face up to the commercial opening and the elimination of economic regulations.

Modernization programs have been aimed at encouraging productive efforts by the private sector. There is the outstanding program for the production of low-priced automobiles so that Mexico may produce the least expensive car in the world.

Regarding foreign trade, the large number of tariffs was reduced to promote competitiveness and improve the allocation of resources. We have strengthened the support mechanisms, especially for firms which are large exporters and firms that import to be able to export.

We created the Mixed Commission for Export Promotion to quickly handle issues raised by exporters. Mexico actively participates in the GATT's Uruguay Round because it wants the negotiating process to become a more solid, just, and equitable mechanism for regulating international trade transactions. Exporters are now accompanying the Mexican delegation at this international forum.

Mexico has not yet attained a level of tourism to match its potential. However, a new promotion effort is already providing greater recreation opportunities to Mexicans and has resulted in an influx of 5 million tourists during the first 9 months of this year. The National Fund for Tourism Promotion to support large-scale projects may well consolidate tourism centers and bring us closer to achieving the very ambitious goals we have set for this sector, which plays a key role in generating jobs, regional development, and foreign exchange income.

Economic growth is an important condition, but it is not enough to improve Mexicans' standard of living. We have set out to meet the demands for all aspects of social well-being. Therefore, I consider the agreement that was reached in December to improve the standard of living of Mexicans, particularly those who have less, fundamental. Thus far into my administration, attention to labor matters and social security has been a priority. Labor inspections have been intensified and programs concerning qualifications and training have been improved. A new impetus has been given to the National Employment Service, which is already operating throughout our entire territory.

The minimum wages increased 8 percent in January and 6 percent in July. Between January and September, prices of basic foods increased only 6.7 percent. In general, salaries fixed by contract did not fluctuate as much, representing a halt in the drop in real wages which is associated with increased price stability. In some sectors, particularly in those in which demand has grown the most, real wages are already improving but not to a degree sufficient to compensate for the drop during the last few years. The increase in output and productivity amid low inflation will permit a gradual albeit general and firm improvement in workers' purchasing power.

In contract revisions, freedom of the factors of production—which have adhered to the spirit of the pact by following the path of concerted efforts—has prevailed. Upon request from the parties, labor authorities have made efforts to settle differences within the context of Arcticle 123 of the constitution. It ist worth noting that strikes were declared in less than 3 percent of the over 4,600 summons received at the Federal Conciliation and Arbitration Board. The number of summons was 58 percent lower than during the same period last year.

The recent labor unrest at the Cananea Mining Company [CMC] and Sicartsa [Lazaro Cardenas-Las Truchas Steel Complex] has been settled according to the law. Subsidies have been reduced with the approval of the workers. In particular, the CMC will resume activities under new conditions that will make it viable and reduce the burden it represents on public finances. Now, with co-ownership by its workers and a strengthened trade union, it has a better outlook for earnings and productivity. In addition, at CMC an overall development program for this historic community has been launched for the first time. We have already published two decrees on border zone promotions, through which more employment sources, centers of higher education for the miners' children, and better urban and health services will be established, thus complying with an old aspiration of its inhabitants. The president of the republic will personally be watching for an increase in the standard of living of this community, which was a pioneer of the Mexican revolution. [applause]

We aided state workers as much as the government's budget allowed, taking into account the very delicate nature of their work. In April and May, teachers held demonstrations demanding better benefits and reorganization of their union. Both parents and students became increasingly concerned over the extended period without classes. The government carefully respected the teachers' right to strike and with limited financial resources made an extraordinary effort to address their economic demands by granting the decade's highest salary increase, in real terms, in recognition of the unprecedented drop in the teachers' standard of living. The government now calls on them to resolve their union's internal bickering without affecting the childrens' education. [applause] Social and economic modernization cannot take place without education and this is the government's top priority. We have already put into effect a program to begin a new stage in Mexico's education. This program, with definite actions, emphasizes that we need to once more make quality and useful grade school education mandatory, an undeniable right, a revolutionary goal, and part of modernization. The new definition for high schools and mid-level education should encourage links to social and community needs. In universities we seek organization and financing for innovation and excellence. Society trusts the teachers' tested vocation and we are obliged to help them excell. We shall extend open and informal education systems. For the sake of justice and the progress that we seek, we will extend available options to all Mexicans.

My government is committed to encouraging scientific investigation and technological development; the greater the investment, the greater the guarantee for a better future. We have encouraged excellent projects which will ensure that Mexican scientists remain in the country or return to institutions of higher learning. We are encouraging and facilitating the links between technical development centers and production enterprises. Through the Consultative Science Council, the scientific and technological community has direct access to the president of the republic on topics of fundamental importance for national development.

The National Council for Arts and Culture was created to boost creativity and spread cultural, ethnic, and regional expressions. We have extended the network of libraries and opened new museums in the countryside. We have created new methods for broadening society's participation in cultural enhancement and promotion and for preserving our historic heritage. We have created a system of scholarships for aspiring artists. I want to stress the recovery of the archeological jewels stolen in 1985 from the National Museum of Anthropology. The National Sports Commission has taken important steps in the physical education of young people. Increased participation by public, private, and social sectors promises new support for sports, both in quantity and quality, which serve, educate, and are a sign of vitality for Mexicans.

National Health System Institutions have concentrated their efforts on raising the quality of their services while at the same time increasing coverage and access to the population. Emphasis has been put on prevention through national vaccination days and programs that encourage health care, especially for mothers and children. There are programs under way to help eradicate age-old diseases that should have been wiped out long ago. Family planning programs have an ever increasing number of couples, but more efforts are needed in the countryside. We have made special efforts to equip clinics and hospitals with essential instruments and the necessary means to enable doctors and nurses to carry out their important work. Considerable savings were made through the system of bids to consolidate the purchase of medical and hospital supplies. The Social Security System has become stronger through the joint efforts of government, workers, and businessmen, extending its coverage and especially the quality of its services by strictly monitoring its finances. At present it serves 36 million people. Federal money aids 10 million people from rural areas. The ISSSTE [Institute of Social Security and Services for Government Workers] has became financially stronger, less overburdened, and has improved its operating efficiency. At this time it serves more than 7 million workers and their families. Programs were started to guarantee the supply of basic products and regulate its prices. CONASUPO [National Company of Basic Commodities] began structural changes and improved the grain distribution system. Shops and stores were decentralized to support local and regional circuits. Tortilla subsidies were maintained through a system of bonds.

Because grievous injustices still exist in our country, we must maintain and expand subsidies to the poorer sectors. However, an inefficient allocation of the subsidies has caused many of them to end up benefiting middlemen and groups for which they were not intended. In this regard, the structural change at CONASUPO will enable us to determine whether subsidies are actually reaching those who need them.

The social milk program increased 8 percent. The number of school breakfasts distributed increased 38 percent to a daily total of 620,000. In addition, 860,000 beneficiaries have been added to the food assistance program in underprivileged areas. The participation of states and municipalities in their own social assistance activities has grown.

The capital of the republic is the city of all Mexicans. For this reason, all those who have enriched it with their presence love it. The size of its problems, needs, and conflicts could jolt anybody. We know the risks it faces, but we are determined to address the problems on which its viability depends and to seek more civilized relations among its inhabitants. We have begun the recovery of its water by expropriating and protecting the Ajusco Mountain under the new Xochimilco Program, introducing water conservation measures of a magnitude that was previously inconceivable, and promoting water treatment and exchange with a new approach to guarantee the hydrological security of the basin. Regarding the use of the soil, we are marking the end of an era of speculation, disorder, and irregularity that perhaps made it possible to ease the housing problem but at a very high social cost.

A year ago, the thought that there was no way to stop the increase in crime was a source of collective anxiety. I pledged my word to reduce impunity and the crime rate. The Office of the Attorney General of the Federal District has taken steps to provide security to the capital city's residents, their families, and their property. We have fought street gangs sternly. I am conscious of the fact that we are just beginning to reap results and that the community is still living in insecurity. We will not give up fulfilling this commitment. While admitting that it has problems, the city has not allowed itself to be gripped by pessimism. It carries on amid social tension and conflicts maintaining a basic harmony all at once. In the face of dimensions that have no precedent in history, governing the city while preserving consensus and improving the capacity to find solutions to problems necessarily implies a gradual establishment of new relations and institutions. An example of how this institutional modernization can be carried out is the relationship that has been established among the city's inhabitants, the Assembly of Representatives, and the Department of the Federal District.

We have made environmental protection one of our nation's fundamental priorities. During the next few days, we will launch a comprehensive program in Mexico City's metropolitan area—which is the most polluted area in the world—that will allow us to stop the growing deterioration. It will be based on a radical improvement in the quality of fuels, stricter control over mobile and fixed pollution sources, and a reorganization of urban transportation. Although our greatest pollution problem is in Mexico City, we have not failed to note other critical areas and have introduced all the prevention and correction measures throughout the country that this national priority demands. We have begun cleaning basins as well as Lakes Chapala and Patzcuaro in Michoacan.

To control the pollution of bodies of water, we have carried out inspections of polluting enterprises. To conserve the nation's resources we have established reserves of protected areas. We are cleaning up and regenerating highly deteriorated areas with the communities' participation. However, we must act more rapidly to protect the environment. Our society is demanding stronger measures to address this contemporary challenge. We will act accordingly.

We will channel investments in excess of 5 billion pesos to the housing sector this year. More than 200,000 housing credits have been granted through several programs. It is appropriate to mention the efforts exerted by INFONAVIT [Institute of the National Fund for Workers Housing], FOVISSSTE [Housing Fund of the Institute of Social Security and Services for Government Workers], FOVI [Housing Operation and Discount Fund], and FONAHPO [National Fund for Popular Housing] in benefiting workers earning low- and mid-level salaries. The procedures for purchasing houses have been simplified with the support of our nation's notaries; a special fund has been created for credits without collateral, thus encouraging self-construction; and the necessary mechanisms are being reviewed to encourage house rentals.

The executive branch I preside over has adopted the principle of solidarity because it represents a solution for employment created and developed by our own society. The National Solidarity Program launched to combat extreme poverty is now a sum of all Mexicans' efforts to achieve the justice we want for all our fellow citizens. I have maintained a permanent dialogue with Indians, peasants, and tenant farmers during the working tours in federal entities. The great dignity which is a part of their lives, and the personal and community efforts they exerted to attain better living conditions have been the best encouragement to step up the national government's activities. Their responsibility is evident in each action, and they demand that it not be replaced or neglected.

The National Solidarity Program is now being implemented in all the states. More than 44,000 health, education, food, supply, services, infrastructure, support, and production projects have been carried out this year. We are thus carrying out the small projects demanded by low-income groups. These are the actions which directly and immediately solve their needs and fulfill their hopes for a more dignified life. These actions support their daily activities in guaranteeing their families' support.

We have concentrated our efforts on the Indian and peasant communities of Oaxaca, Chiapas, Guerrero, Puebla, Tlaxcala, Hidalgo, Chihuahua, Nayarit, Campeche, and Zacatecas; but we are also working in the low-income neighborhoods of Monterrey, Guadalajara, Monclova, Torreon, Lerdo, Gomez, Merida, Tuxtla Gutierrez, Tapachula, San Luis Potosi, Aguascalientes, Leon, Irapuato, Celaya, Hermosillo, Matamoros, Tijuana, Mexicali, La Paz, Durango, and the Mexico City metropolitan area. I particularly mention the solidarity program for Chalco and Chimalhuacan, two communities of more than 1 million inhabitants who live in conditions that are incompatible with the Mexican revolution's mandate for justice. Their situation causes indignation and demands a dignified solution. Our joint efforts will improve their situation. [applause]

We have signed agreements with 20 ethnic groups throughout the country, outlining actions to be jointly carried out for their social welfare and to sponsor their production activities. We have refurbished 1,233 hostels for Indian youths and children, so that they may study under better conditions; and we have also increased their educational scholarships. We have also increased the health programs to include 2 million Indians and peasants by building and furnishing 438 health centers and 323 medical units and by repairing and refurbishing existing installations.

More than 10,000 new schoolrooms have been rebuilt and part of the existing infrastructure in the education sector was refurbished as requested by parents, school children, and teachers. We are answering the demands to provide protection for the schools and school grounds, and to provide other services in the neighborhoods. This year we have delivered 255,422 ownership titles in low-income neighborhoods—an action without precedent in our country—and we are providing potable water, sewers, paved streets, electricity, entertainment centers, and sports installations to low-income neighborhoods throughout the republic. [applause]

Referring to food and supplies, more than 15,000 urban and rural stores have been recapitalized; and 459 stores and 130 dairies have been established in low-income communities and neighborhoods.

We are supporting the productive activities of the peasants who live in semidesert and inaccessible areas by building roads, waterworks, and implementing plans backed by the areas' residents and using the natural resources available there. In doing so, we have sought new alternatives for development of those regions. The participation of the peasants has been essential in this task, as has been their help in the work to supply 2,000 rural communities throughout the nation with electricity. Likewise, we continue to promote the work of women and young university graduates in community activities and in the rural areas and low-income neighborhoods.

Honorable Congress of the Union, fellow countrymen, my government has carried out its constitutional and political responsibilities with enthusiasm and conviction. From the people, I received the order to make changes to allow Mexico to fulfill its historic goals in the contemporary world. Following a decade of sacrifice and uncertainty, we now have a real chance to make changes and benefit from the opportunities these changes offer. We have our own path for forging a more prosperous, free, and just country not only for us, those who are fighting here and now, but also to build the legacy of effort and solidarity that we will leave to future generations.

In these months much has changed in the country; we have changed a lot. Not as a natural result of circumstances but as the rational response of an entire people to the challenges of their times. Before us we have the proof of what a united people can do when they have the spirit, determination, and means to work. Actions support the strength which we have to make those changes today. The actions of the Mexican respected around the world. We have shown the world that we are on our feet, proud of our roots, and have our eyes and our determination on the future. The new social optimism among the Mexican people is not the result of chance or luck. We have proven to ourselves that when we make up our minds, Mexicans can do it. Nothing makes civilian coexistence more difficult or harms our will to make changes like the distance between words and facts. That can lead to social discouragement. For this reason, I have done my best to fulfill the promises I made. Actions support the new social optimism and the Mexican people's recovered assurance in their future. Many thought that the constitutional amendments to have cleaner elections would be impossible since an agreement among parties of opposed ideologies was necessary. Mexico did it. [applause] Others felt that political pluralism was incompatible with social harmony, that uniformity was necessary, that the real triumphs of the opposition could not be recognized. Mexico is denying this and is proving that tolerance, freedom, and human rights can be tested throughout our country. [applause] We will never permit chains that tie down the human spirit.

For many, the renegotiation of the foreign debt and the excessive burden that weighed down the shoulders of the Mexican people, seemed an impossibility. Mexico has achieved this. [applause] Many felt that we could not make our economy grow above the population growth rate and without hyperinflationary risks. Mexico is achieving this.

Still others thought that it would be impossible for the state to transform, to respect new forms of social organization, to pay attention to those who have the least and, by dissolving firms, open the doors to worker participation in capital. Mexico is doing this. [applause]

The immense majority of our fellow compatriots, hurt by corruption or high-handedness, thought it impossible for the full weight of the law to be brought to bear upon individuals and groups which mistakenly thought that their interests and the nation's were the same. In Mexico they are being punished, and impunity has been banished. [applause]

Some thought that the struggle against drug trafficking was not in the country's interest. They did not care about the risks it posed to national security or the health of Mexican families. Mexico is fighting it without respite. Many Mexicans had even lost hope of finding the archeological jewels taken from our museum. Mexico has recovered its artistic and archeological treasures and has allayed those people's hurt pride. [applause]

For the majority of Mexicans it seemed impossible for Mexico to be respected by neighboring countries, by the most advanced nations, and by the most distant peoples, while maintaining our principles and the firmness to promote national interests. Mexico has accomplished this. [applause]

The disenchantment of some compatriots resulted from their believing that the absence of change constituted a move away from the Mexican revolution's basic postulates: sovereignty, democracy, justice, and the protection of our traditional way of life. Mexico is demonstrating that it can change and secure those fundamental postulates, and that modernization is the path to an enduring revolution. Our politics are oriented toward goals: the goals of Mexico's history.

All of these are national achievements, the Mexican people's accomplishments. I do not invoke them to encourage self-complacency but instead to ratify that the new social spirit is fully substantiated and, moreover, that events must convince us that we can overcome the challenges that are still ahead of us. There is still a great deal to be done. It is my duty to warn you of this, and I am committed to leading you in overcoming them. An extra effort must be made in all areas.

In the economic sphere, the only way to maintain the recovery is by consolidating the struggle against inflation. Because of this we will maintain strict fiscal discipline, broaden and improve the mechanisms for a concerted effort, and continue deregulating, simplifying and supporting investments, especially exports. We will promote changes in Mexico beginning with the government. We will strengthen strategic and important firms with resources and increased demands for productivity, and continue dissolving others. We will grow moderately without excesses. We will work with the certainty that we will now be able to reap the fruits of our own labor.

The pact must be strengthened in order to accomplish this. The people have recognized the pact's usefulness and its advantages. Its signees have also. Nevertheless, after being in effect for 2 years, there are aspects that require careful and responsible revision. Throughout this period, guaranteed prices have increased fourfold, but the final prices of basic products have not changed. Lodged between both prices is a subsidy that has already reached excessive proportions and does not always reach the poorest people. This could generate diversion and even corruption.

I reiterate, we will maintain subsidies but only for the most needy. Meanwhile, the social priorities that must be attended to and the fight against pollution—which devastates resources and hurts our families' health—require considerable sums which we must contribute. There will be no modifications that could return us to the situation that the pact rescued us from: an undesirable race between prices and salaries in which—as we know—salaries always fall behind.

We will act prudently and with a sense of balance, and we will base our decisions on agreements and concerted efforts in order to continue discouraging inflation. This is our path; we must perfect it.

Referring to the political sector, we must all cooperate to defend social peace. We must exercise our rights in a responsible way to strengthen and increase rather than curtail them. Let us remember that private interests are valid and deserve respect in a democratic regime. However, there are interests which prevail over others, the interests of our nation—which makes all of our rights possible. Each one of us will benefit if we all work for Mexico. We must strengthen dialogue, self-evaluation, and criticism as never before because today's Mexicans do not abide by authoritarian mandates, and they do reject anarchic situations. And they have a political language, the language of democracy, which is spoken in all our activities.

Therefore, given the state's democratizing attitude and society's strong support, the small groups that insist on the dogmatism of all or nothing should reflect on their position. [Unidentified man shouts: "No!"] [applause] Antigovernment attitudes ... [Salinas is interrupted by shouts and the chanting of "We totally reject the electoral farce!"]

[Chairman] I ask the assembly to hear in an orderly and moderate way—out of respect for the Mexican people [shouts and booing] and all those who are gathered here—the report that the citizen president is presenting to the nation. [Unidentified man shouts: "It is a hoax."] This chairmanship asks you to be calm and wise. There is a parliamentary agreement signed by the coordinators of all the groups in both chambers in which they agree to attend this general congress meeting as stated in Article No 69 of the general constitution of the republic and Article No 8 of the congress law. I respectfully ask the citizen legislators to abide by the law, regulations, and agreement. Please continue, Citizen President. [shouts and applause]

[Salinas] Antigovernment action plans only contribute to increased tension inside the groups promoting such plans; those groups lose the respect they require from the community and finally become detached from their social foundations. I reiterate my willingness to talk. [applause]

In politics, reconciliation is as important as firmness. Commitments do not come before principles or convictions. Therefore, we will not let anyone forcefully change the course of modernization from the political channels of consensus.

In Mexico, we must channel the enormous popular energy resulting from changes. The government must guarantee the necessary stability within the community. We will continue seeking a consensus through tolerance and mutual acceptance as pluralism requires. We will exercise authority in a democratic way. We will not tolerate trespassing or violating the laws. [applause]

We must all abide by the laws. I have seen that it is the citizens and the social organizations that are at the head of the struggle for democracy. To reach that height is a great challenge, a fitting action particularly for the political parties.

In the international field we have opportunities we will continue to take advantage of. The overall picture is favorable. However, there is also instability in the foreign financial markets and uncertainty in light of the fiscal and trade imbalances in the more industrialized countries. We cannot remove ourselves from many of the side effects. We can prepare to negotiate greater access for our exports and reaffirm the orderly management of our economy and healthy financial practices in our markets. To confront these foreseeable problems we have the strength we have gained, the government's firm actions, and a clear view of the policies to be implemented. People of Mexico, in light of these challenges, precisely because they are there, we are going to continue changing, we are going to modernize. We will do this by upgrading the people's wellbeing. Let us take the step in this new decade that is beginning and turn the nineties into a period of justice. I call on the nation to put forth its best efforts and summon up all of its strenghth to promote justice and fairness among Mexicans. Of all the challenges we have ahead, the most important, and the one that most offends the essential values of the Mexican people, is the challenge of injustice. There are too many fellow countrymen who have pressing needs. Their situation is incompatible with the modernization of the country, with justice, and finally, with the best defense of sovereignty. To improve their standards of living is our first priority. Here is where the essence of the importance I give to the national solidarity plan lies. Even though economic growth will create the jobs we need, only an overall social plan will allow us to level out opulence and poverty. This is what the people are demanding.

Solidarity is what will allow us to build a new moral balance in our society. It is the feeling born of an emergency caused by natural disasters or social injustice. It is more than sympathy or coincidence; solidarity means cooperation, cohesion, and unity. Those who practice solidarity do not expect a reward nor do they have to be prompted. They are moved by their commitments to their fellow men. Solidarity is a generous concept that lacks any trace of paternalism. It implies respect and co-responsibility. It rejects false promises. It is the firmest hope of correcting historic injustice for a future of equity.

That is why the national solidarity program will continue to join people's efforts to the institutions' responsibilities. Those who do not make an effort, those who do not work, those who do not contribute in any way—at least by giving encouragement—will not get their compatriots' solidarity. Fortunately, persons in this category are a minority.

I will continue to visit Indian and peasant communties that are in remote areas and the poorest towns and neighborhoods in the country. I will continue to listen to the needs, hopes, and proposals of the people living in these areas. I will encourage their participation in solving their communities' problems and will not allow them to be ignored. I will talk with them and hear about their situations. Although a great deal has been done, there is still much more to do to improve their standard of living. The most important aspect, however, already exists. It is the efforts being made by the low-income sectors themselves to overcome their condition. The poorest, the most needy Mexicans who are trying hard and struggling to improve their situation will continue to have the Mexican president's commitment and strongest support. [applause]

I believe Mexicans can construct a state of justice—that is the true measure of the country's greatness—and my confidence is based on the total efforts exerted by Mexicans and their solidarity. That is why we are going to continue to change and modernize. We will do so with deep nationalism. During the latter part of the 19th century, there were people in the world who believed that strong and passionate nationalism would disappear along with its causes: the wounds left by foreign aggression. Many in these foreign countries, however, paid with their freedom and even their lives for having underestimated the depth of nationalism and the willingness of a nation to maintain a united future.

As we approach the 21st century, in this era in which large blocs of nations—such as the European, North American, and Pacific Basin blocs—are being formed, there may be a temptation to try to dissolve national borders. Problems of worldwide scope would also seem to promote the end of nationalities, the end of the wealth of distinct identities. In response to this I emphatically state that Mexico supports interdependence, but we ratify our character as a sovereign and independent nation. [applause]

We have opened our economy and we have worldwide business dealings, but we ratify our profound nationalism. We concede supreme value to our fatherland's self-determination, to the inviolability of our territory, and respect for our traditions and customs. We have memory, a history we are proud of and for which we stand responsible before our children.

The great movements of our history have never adopted or exploited nationalism to justify stagnation and delays, exclude us from the world, or reduce our freedoms. In essence, nationalism can only be creative, release contained forces, and open horizons so that we Mexicans can live as we wish and deserve to live. The defense of sovereignty is nationalism's most resounding manifestation. However, sovereignty is not defended only beyond our borders. Sovereignty is also defended by a people's political capability to have a single voice speak on behalf of its general interests, and with the greatest respect for the varying views of its citizens, groups, and associations.

Sovereignty is strengthened by productive capabilities, adequate employment, and above all, by fighting poverty that should have never existed. Such is our nationalism. Let us recognize once again the importance of patriotism. Let us not forget that without it nothing would change in a nation. Patriotism is the origin and purpose of the battle we are going to wage. Therefore, our battle makes sense. Nearly 2 centuries ago we decided to be free. We decided to make this a united nation. Our nation would not exist today had it not been for the social cement that has forged all generations into a single history. Each and every one of us recognizes we have a common origin and we share the same future.

Our culture has that powerful and invisible bond that ties all Mexicans together. We must translate love for the fatherland into community; we must see everyone's weakness as the weakness of one. We must strengthen feelings that promote a generous effort. Without it, we would not have built the great nation that we are.

Fellow countrymen: Nationalism and justice—that is the synthesis of modernization in Mexico. That is the way it must be, because modernization without a nationalist purpose becomes disoriented and disappears, and if there is no general wellbeing, it becomes a frustrating contradiction. This modernization has direct meanings and repercussions in the daily life of the Mexicans.

For the peasants, modernization means a respect for traditions and community living; it encourages their organization, and recognizes their capabilities for guiding their own destinies. For the Indians, modernization means differences that are expressed in languages, cultures, and traditions. Modernization gathers the initiative of the community, and it plays a main role. It does not promise total and immediate solutions, but it deepens commitments and actions.

For workers, modernization means greater participation and knowledge, better jobs and salaries, participation in technological changes, and respect for their trade unions and labor rights. For the local neighborhood groups, modernization means the possibility to make hope a reality, build a true community with their participation, and live in the dignified manner that their efforts deserve. For businessmen, modernization means advancing in the battle for quality, new markets, to open more opportunities and new dimensions. It represents the possibility of making their capabilities for innovation a reality.

For the middle classes, professionals, and intellectuals this means the opportunity to carry out their highly responsible activities, reverse the social stagnation that caused the crisis, and be part of the world community of talent.

For public employees, this is a chance to ratify their commitment to the people, without privileges but with personal pride. For teachers and doctors, modernization will allow them to have the means to adequately carry out their important tasks, consolidate their responsibilities and the respect they deserve in the community, and strengthen their social advancement. For the media, this means respect for freedom and encouragement for their sense of responsibility, seriousness, and social commitments in their daily activities.

For the Armed Forces of Mexico, modernization will mean having the strategic and tactical means to defend the sovereignty of our fatherland, fulfill their high national mission, and increase their families' standard of living. For the young, this is the opportunity for a better education, access to sports, as well as a job that will allow them to channel their tremendous energy and to change the world around them.

For women, modernization means a recognition of the place they deserve in the fields, in the factories, in the arts, and the country's development, with self-appreciation and the valuable defense of their homes. For the Mexican family, modernization is an opportunity to reaffirm the ties that join them together, their respect for the elderly, to fulfill one's duties to others and be honest in studies, work, and recreation.

For the president of the republic, this means abiding by the Constitution, guaranteeing freedom, ruling in a democratic manner, strongly defending sovereignty, and promoting justice. The Presidency does not move on its own; it rules with and for the people. It promotes and leads to changes in a prudent and strong manner in accordance with the times and pace that society demands. We must build, day by day, this nationalist and popular modernization. We must consolidate the reform of the state, returning to its origins: sovereignty and justice. Let there be no other political judgment but the quality of life of all Mexicans. This is not an easy task; it is not without difficulties. All of us will have to work harder, be more disciplined, make an additional effort, and above all, we must maintain total loyalty to Mexico.

Problems will not disappear, and neither will confidence. If all of us have contributed to the new hope, then I am sure all of us will make sure that it is fulfilled. Together, and in a short period of time, we have done much. Together, we will do more. We have reconquered our collective confidence. We share our heritage, ideals, and achievements. It is the Mexicans' heritage of democracy and justice. It is also the heritage of an unyielding will and the determination that forged and achieved independence, the tenacity that formed a liberal republic, and the passion that crystallized a revolution of lasting social commitments.

It is the will of all Mexicans. It is the will of Mexico. We have a course ahead to follow. There is courage and solidarity. Destiny is ours, and we will conquer it. Long live Mexico, fellow countrymen! [applause]

Costa Rica

Arias Reportedly Trying to Mediate in El Salvador

PA1411175289 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] San Jose, 14 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Sources close to the Costa Rican Presidency and Foreign Ministry have reported that Costa Rica is trying, at the highest level, to contact the Salvadoran Government and guerrillas to "do something" for the pacification of that country.

The sources, who asked ACAN-EFE not to mention their names, said that the government has been trying—an attempt that, in light of its nature, "could be described as secret"—"to do something" to achieve peace in El Salvador.

According to government and guerrilla sources, the offensive launched by the Salvadoran guerrillas on Saturday has already resulted in hundreds of military, rebel, and civilian casualties.

The sources neither admitted nor denied that Costa Rican President Oscar Arias is heading the peacemaking efforts. However, in diplomatic circles President Arias is considered to be the most qualified to attempt a negotiation to solve the difficult Salvadoran situation.

ACAN-EFE tried to interview President Oscar Arias on several occasions yesterday at his home; however, they were told that the president "was very busy."

The versions regarding the possibility that Arias is promoting an international diplomatic peacemaking effort for El Salvador, supported by several politicians and diplomats, gained strength in light of the official silence and the fact that it was impossible to gain access to the president.

Diplomatic and political circles believe that President Arias has been in telephone contact with Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani and several guerrilla commanders with whom he has met on several occasions in San Jose.

The most recent meeting with the guerrilla commanders was held in President Arias' office 2 weeks ago. At the conclusion of that meeting, it was announced that positive elements were present for the continuation of the peace negotiations in El Salvador.

In mid-October representatives of the Salvadoran Government and the guerrillas met at a convent in Moravia, Costa Rica, 10 km from San Jose. At the conclusion of that meeting the parties in conflict agreed to "institutionalize the dialogue" and to hold a third meeting on 20-21 November in Caracas, Venezuela. This meeting was suspended by the guerrillas because of the climate of violence prevailing in El Salvador.

A diplomat, who asked to remain unidentified, said that "where the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front rebels are going with those violent and bloody actions they launched on Saturday" is something that must be clarified.

Temporary Withdrawal of Envoys to Panama Urged

PA1511030389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0211 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] San Jose, 13 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—The Costa Rican Government will urge OAS member countries to "temporarily withdraw" their ambassadors from Panama until "a constitutional process is begun for a transfer of power through elections."

A press communique from the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry reported today that Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto will present a draft resolution on 14 November in Washington at the 19th OAS Assembly General.

The communique adds that Madrigal "has worked hard among the OAS members" so that the draft could be approved.

Following the annullment of the 7 May elections in Panama, several Latin American countries have withdrawn their representatives from Panama.

The proposal asks the members to "reassert, as it has been well stated by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, that General (Manuel Antonio) Noriega's refusal to turn over power has become the main obstacle in a peaceful transition to democracy in Panama."

The document also asks the Inter-American Human Rights Commission to "exert all of its authority and efforts in protecting the Panamanians' human rights, and to conduct several on site inspections" in Panama.

In addition, it asks everyone to "condemn" the human rights violations perpetrated by "the unconstitutional deforciants of power and their allies."

The draft resolution also asks everyone to assert that the current Panamanian regime "lacks legitimacy."

The draft document urges the "peoples and governments of America" to reassert their pledge of guaranteeing "a full and total compliance with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties," which guarantees the return of the interocean canal to Panama and the departure of the U.S. military forces from that country on 31 December 1999.

Another point in the resolution asks the OAS to state "its solidarity with the Panamanian people's just and legitimate hopes of having a regime that respects their rights."

Costa Rica's draft document proposes that the OAS reaffirm its 17 May resolution, one of whose points holds Noriega responsible for the exacerbation of the Panamanian crisis following the annullment of the elections.

Costa Rica bases its resolution, among other international judicial instruments, on the OAS Charter, the American Declaration of Human Rights and Duties; and the American Human Rights Convention.

El Salvador

Fighting Continues in Wake of Guerrilla Offensive

FMLN 'Manifesto' to Nation

PA1411131489 (Clandestine) Cadena Revolucionaria Nacional in Spanish to El Salvador 1209 GMT 14 Nov 89

["FMLN General Command manifesto to the nation" read by FMLN Commander Joaquin Villalobos—recorded]

[Text] Since 1981 the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has been insisting on the need for a political solution to the war. Its efforts met with the stubborn opposition of the Armed Forces and the country's ultrarightist sectors, who are the ones who in reality have wielded total power.

We presented dozens of negotiating proposals in which we increasingly made our positions more flexible, even though the military reality demonstrated that we were invincible. We presented to the current Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] Government a proposal that had real possibilities of bringing about peace. However, the response we received was an escalation of repression by means of torture and murder, which culminated with the massacre of the workers of the Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation [FENASTRAS].

The government rejected our formulas for negotiation in word and in deed, and instead (?deepened) the causes behind the war by worsening the social crisis and reducing the range of activity of the popular sectors. Faced with a dangerous situation that threatened not only to shut off a peaceful solution to the war, but instead to increase the killings and other flagrant violations of our people's democratic rights, the FMLN decided to launch a forceful and strategic military offensive that would put a halt to the fascists and open up a possibility to end the war.

Consequently, at 2000 on 11 November our forces entered into combat against all the targets designated in our offensive plan, despite all the preventive measures and arrangements set up by the Army to try to halt us. Our experienced fighters, in spite of the disadvantage in forces and arms, have fulfilled our goals beyond our expectations, carrying out one of the most glorious military battles in the history of the people's war. In under 15 hours, we gained control over strategic territories, wiped out dozens of enemy troops, took prisoners, recovered weapons, and destroyed armored vehicles and airplanes.

After 4 continuous days of fighting, our forces have rejected all counterattacks by the enemy and have gained new positions. Thousands of residents of the cities have staged popular uprisings to support our forces, which have been augmented by new fighters. Faced with this situation, the ARENA government and the clique of corrupt military officers known as La Tandona who command the Armed Forces, have ordered criminal bombings of the civilian population with the purpose of putting down the popular uprisings. This has brought about more support for our forces and redoubled the people's rage against the government led by Cristiani and the Army. A situation has thus come about that demands that our forces carry out the decision to continue the offensive that our forces and the people have unleashed until its final consequences.

Peace is possible only if we evict from power those who have profited from war. Consequently, the FMLN General Command:

1. Orders that all our units must hold the positions conquered, organize the general uprising of our people, and carry out all the tasks dealing with the population's security and defense and the collection of food and its distribution to the needy.

2. Calls the people to a general uprising so they can join us in battle in every possible way with all types of weapons to defend themselves and strike the enemy.

3. Announces that, effective as soon as this manifesto is announced, we declare as territories liberated by the people all the areas under our control in Morazan, San Miguel, La Union, Usulutan, Cuscatlan, Chalatenango, San Vicente, and Cabanas Departments. In accordance with this, our forces and the people will organize popular governments in every municipality in these departments. Simultaneously, our forces that control territories in the cities must intensify the struggle to ensure total control of the country.

4. Urges all the workers to stop working as part of the generalized struggle, which will help weaken the January government and will enable all to join us in combat. Therefore, we hereby announce that the current transportation stoppage, the sabotaging of the energy supply, and the closing of gasoline stations will continue for an indefinite time. For this reason, the people must prepare for this situation. We sternly warn those employers who force their workers to go to work that our forces have been instructed to impose obedience to this measure.

5. Asks the international community and humanitarian organizations to send help to the civilian victims of bombings and contribute to the creation of refuges and centers to protect the population from the criminal actions unleashed by Cristiani's government and the Armed Forces High Command.

6. Urgently calls all political and social forces, popular organizations, and private businessmen in our country to assume at this time the historic role of makers and builders of a national democratic solution that can bring lasting peace to our country.

7. Makes a patriotic exhortation to officers and the rank and file of the Army not to let the big batch [La Tandona, the graduating class of the majority of the current Army

Staff members], ARENA, and the U.S. interests lead them to confront the people, thus staining their hands with blood. The FMLN does not regard them as enemies and is ready to make peace with the Army sectors who want justice, sovereignty, and true democracy for our people. The enemy of the people and all of our country's social and political forces is La Tandona, who have enriched themselves with war, and the ARENA death squads. They are the enemies of peace and democracy. They are the ones who do not want a regime of justice. We call all the nation to fight them so we can sing the national anthem, which the tyranny has tried to bury, and which says: Freedom is its dogma and guideline, which it has sworn to defend a thousand times, and just as many times, has sworn to reject the hateful power of a bold tyranny.

[Signed] FMLN General Commanders Salvador Sanchez Seren, Eduardo Sancho, Francisco Jovel, Jorge Shafik Handal, Joaquin Villalobos.

El Salvador, 13 November 1989.

Rebels Attack 4th Infantry

PA1411140289 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1321 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Early today, 14 November, our forces launched 10 grenades from the people's artillery that hit the garrison of the 4th Infantry Brigade in Chalatenango Department. We repeat, at 0100 this morning 10 grenades from the people's artillery were launched at the 4th Infantry Brigade garrison in Chalatenango. The shells hit the army installations. Stay tuned for more information on this attack.

Rebels on San Miguel Clashes

PA1411140489 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1253 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Here is an important report from San Miguel. The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has inflicted 47 casualties on 3d Infantry Brigade troops and police forces in the northern section of San Miguel, the departmental capital.

In addition, during fighting with the Arce Battalion in San Miguel, FMLN forces have inflicted many casualties and seized ammunition and war materiel from its forces.

We have seized a large quantity of (?bombs) and armament in the districts in the area of the military route and, your attention please, your close attention: It is also reported that during fighting with the Arce Battalion yesterday, 13 November, at 1300, four soldiers—including a sergeant—were killed and many wounded. In addition, we seized 4 M-16 rifles, 4 knapsacks, 1 LAW, 1 M-72, and 1 M-79 with 36 grenades in La Coquera neighborhood in San Miguel.

At noon yesterday, 13 November, seven knapsacks, ammunition for M-16 rifles, and other supplies were seized in the area Chevron gas station. In addition, one soldier was killed in the fighting in this area of San Miguel.

FMLN Holding Positions

PA1411142689 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1210 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] We have received reports from several department capitals and San Salvador saying that this morning the FMLN forces are holding their positions in San Salvador, San Miguel, Santa Ana, and Zacatecoluca. We have also learned that clashes have intensified in San Vicente, Cabanas, Chalatenango, and La Libertad. Our guerrilla columns are advancing toward fresh targets. Radio Venceremos is appealing to our people to stand by for our broadcasts because we will be airing important information.

For the fourth consecutive day, the revolutionary forces saw the sun rise in the capital after intense activity throughout the night. Large numbers of roadblocks have been erected, antitank ditches have been dug, and war materiel has been gathered. Thousands of San Salvador youths are at this moment behind the roadblocks in the FMLN - controlled areas in San Salvador. Our leaders report that our comrades are determined not to yield a single inch of the territory they have occupied in the department capitals where there have been clashes.

The counteroffensive of several Army battalions, including the special forces, failed yesterday afternoon. These battalions, the Atlacatl, Belloso, Bracamonte, and Paratroopers, failed in their attempt to dislodge the FMLN forces from their positions. It is estimated that the Armed Forces have so far sustained 650 casualties throughout the national territory. In addition, numerous weapons and thousands of rounds of ammunition have been seized. Aircraft have been destroyed and large areas have been occupied in various department capitals. It has also been confirmed that violent clashes occurred last night.

The FMLN launched a heavy attack on the San Benito Battalion Headquarters at the International Fairgrounds and the Staff Headquarters at the Zona Rosa section in San Salvador. These attacks aim at the heart of the oligarchy and the staff. It has been reported that last night's clash in San Salvador resulted in numerous casualties in the forces defending the Staff Headquarters and the San Benito Battalion. This battalion is in charge of protecting the staff and the area where the oligarchs reside.

24-Hour Curfew in Soyapango

PA1411142889 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1401 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] This is a reminder for residents of the Soyapango area. They are again reminded that, until further notice, the curfew remains in effect in that area 24 hours a day.

Rebels Reportedly 'Wiped Out'

PA1411145089 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1343 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] This morning our units toured several areas in San Salvador and the outlying municipalities. In reality, Salvadoran brothers, our Armed Forces have completely wiped out the redoubts of the terrorists of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. In several places in San Salvador there is heavy movement. We have seen hundreds of Salvadorans in the streets, thousands in some areas, going to their workplaces. There is activity in the streets.

We congratulate the Salvadoran people, who are moving about with optimism, for their courage and bravery. They are defying the bullets of the FMLN criminals and murderers, who are sowing grief and mourning among the Salvadoran people. The FMLN did not take into account, however, that El Salvador has a professional and powerful Armed Forces that the people support. This Armed Forces is destroying all the guerrilla redoubts.

Salvadorans: If you are still at home, you can go out to work unless you are in one of the few remaining restricted areas where terrorist snipers are operating. There is activity and movement in the large urban areas of the city and on the main streets of the capital. The markets and commercial establishments are opening for business. The supermarkets are opening their doors. Buses are operating. We will keep you informed of what is taking place so that you can move about freely, knowing that your Armed Forces is supporting you, that each soldier is guarding your life. You have to trust in your Armed Forces, as you always have, because it is the arm that is defending you from the terrorist aggression.

Armed Forces personnel had an encounter with the rebels in Las Amapolas, San Francisco neighborhood, San Salvador; in the vicinity of the Torre Democracia building in San Salvador; and in El Limon canton, Soyapango. There were no casualties as a result of any of these encounters.

An attempt was made against the deputy foreign minister's life through an attack on a residence in the Escalon neighborhood in San Salvador. No one was hurt, however.

The Armed Forces also reported that a harrassment attack was made on the garrison of the 4th Infantry Brigade, but there were no casualties. Three explosions have been heard in Apastepeque, but their origin has not yet been determined.

Armed Forces personnel were also harrassed north of the 6th Infantry Brigade and National Police installations in Berlin, but again no casualties were reported.

FMLN on Positions in Usulutan

PA1411145389 (Clandestine) Radio Cadena Revolucionaria Nacional in Spanish to El Salvador in Spanish 1330 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] This is a report from Usulutan, in the country's east. Our forces are holding positions in the Santa Clara, Clarisa, Cruz 1, Cruz 2, Cruz 3, and (?La Esperanza) neighborhoods on the periphery of Usulutan, the capital city of this department. As of 0700 today, 14 November, our forces launched a strong attack on the enemy positions. Since yesterday, 13 November, our forces have occupied Ozatlan, San Francisco Javier, San Agustin, San Agustin, and Santa Elena, where we are carrying out intense political work.

We rely on the support and jubilant cooperation of hundreds of youths determined to defend the liberated territory and participate in the FMLN's offensive and advances against the 6th Infantry Brigade in Usulutan. Most of the Army battalions in this area have pulled back to the city of Usulutan, where they are being attacked by our forces.

We repeat: At 0700 today, our forces launched an offensive against the enemy positions. Also since yesterday, our forces hold positions in Ozatlan, San Francisco Javier, San Agustin, and Santa Elena.

FMLN Declares 'Liberated Territory'

PA1411151989 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1327 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Your attention, please. Early today, 14 November, 10 shells of our people's artillery were catapulted by our forces against the 4th Brigade's garrison in Chalatenango Department. Several hits were scored inside the garrison.

Meanwhile, the transportation stoppage is fully effective in San Salvador. The streets are empty. Private and public employees have not reported for work. The transportation stoppage is 100 percent effective in the capital.

For the 4th consecutive day, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] is holding positions in the capital following intensive fighting throughout the night, during which the FMLN attacked positions of the San Benito Battalion and the forces guarding the Armed Forces General Staff offices. There has been heavy fighting in the area around the fairgrounds and Zona Rosa, in that whole area which is an enclave of the oligarchy and the General Staff.

In addition, in the low-income districts in the Salvadoran capital hundreds of residents have taken to the streets to erect barricades. At this moment, vehicles are being being used to set up roadblocks on street corners. Many stores owned by the military have become targets of the people's wrath. Hardware stores belonging to soldiers have been opened and picks and shovels taken from them are being used to dig ditches and to increase the number of barricades in the capital.

In the neighborhoods where food had become scarce, thousands of residents have gone to the supermarkets—most of which are used by members of La Tandona [name given to 1966 graduates of Captain Gerardo Barrios Military Academy]—tearing down the doors and taking the foodstuffs that belong to them.

The FMLN urges all fighters to maintain their positions. We salute all war fronts because today is a day of feasting here in Morazan. It is a festive day here in Chalate and in Jucuaran. We have heard that our General Command has declared the areas under FMLN control as liberated territory. This means areas under our control in Morazan, San Miguel, La Union, Usulutan, Cuscatlan, Chalatenango, San Vicente, and Cabanas Departments.

Rebels on Shelling in San Miguel

*PA1411163489 (Clandestine) Cadena Revolucionaria Nacional in Spanish to El Salvador
1357 GMT 14 Nov 89*

[Text] Attention, attention, we have just received a report from San Miguel on indiscriminate shelling there. The report adds that the indiscriminate shelling and bombings being carried out by A-37 planes continued today in La Esmeralda, La Coquera, Lopez, El Granillo, and Santa Luisa neighborhoods. It has also been reported that there are several dead and wounded civilians and many destroyed homes.

Once again we denounce these criminal actions by the fascist government; we denounce the shelling and bombing actions against the civilian population. We repeat our call to the International Red Cross, humanitarian organizations, Green Cross, and rescue commands to come to these places to help the civilian victims.

We have also received a report from Ilobasco; we have received a preliminary war bulletin from Cinquera, Cabanas Department.

Today, 14 November, at 0000 [0600 GMT], rebel units entered Ilobasco, Cabanas Department, and attacked the repressive National Police and Civil Defense trenches located in downtown Ilobasco with rifles and RPG-7 rocket launchers. Today, 14 November, at 0630 [1230 GMT], heavy fighting was still being reported. It has been confirmed that during the attack on Ilobasco, the National Police, 2nd Military Detachment, and Civil Defense troops suffered 12 casualties. At 0740 [1340 GMT] fighting continues in Ilobasco.

FMLN Requests 'Momentary Truce'

*PA1411164189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1606 GMT 14 Nov 89*

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 14 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Guerrillas entrenched in the Zacamil neighborhood in San Salvador this morning proposed a "momentary truce" to aid civilians, but without giving up the positions they have taken since the rebel military offensive began on 11 November.

Commander Carlos Argueta, one of the rebel leaders responsible for the occupation of the housing complex in which 150,000 people live, told ACAN-EFE this morning that "if after aiding the civilians the army wants to dislodge us, we can continue the fighting."

Argueta said that the truce would be "exclusively to aid the civilians, who since 11 November have not had any water, electric power, food, or medicine."

Argueta, who is armed with an AK-47 rifle and commands several hundred guerrillas, said, "Let us decree a truce right now. Let us stop the fighting momentarily. We are not seeking any advantages. We only want to aid the civilians."

Another rebel commander, identified as "Chico," told ACAN-EFE that there should be a truce to help Zacamil's civilian population.

He said, "The guerrillas guarantee the safe passage of ambulances if the truce is decreed."

"Chico" added: "We ask humanitarian organizations to come here to take care of the children and civilians. They should bring medicine and food for the people. We offer gurantees to the national or international aid organizations so that they can come to help the civilians." [passage omitted]

Fighting in Zacatecoluca

*PA1411164589 (Clandestine) Cadena Revolucionaria Nacional in Spanish to El Salvador
1437 GMT 14 Nov 89*

[Text] We have received a report stating that from 12-13 November, the Armed Forces Engineers' Military Detachment has suffered several casualties. The report states that on 12 November the Armed Forces Engineers' Military Detachment suffered 45 casualties, 2 of which were sergeants. On 13 November, in the northern sector of Zacatecoluca, another 45 casualties were inflicted. Among the casualties were an officer and two sergeants. These are casualties from among the Armed Forces Engineers' Military Detachment soldiers, inflicted during clashes in the southern [as heard] sector of Zacatecoluca, departmental capital city, La Paz Department.

Meanwhile, in (Ichanmichen) the enemy Jiboa Battalion of the 5th Infantry Brigade has suffered 28 casualties. Included among these casualties is another officer and two more sergeants.

In total, during 2 days of fighting in Zacatecoluca, we have inflicted 90 casualties on the Armed Forces Engineers' Military Detachment and 28 casualties on the 5th Infantry Brigade.

We have also learned that at 1000 [1600 GMT] on 13 November, an 02 plane was damaged in Zacatecoluca. The report adds that on 12 November the rebels seized an M-16 and an M-79 rifle. Meanwhile, on 13 November the rebels seized two M-16's and other war equipment.

Today, 14 November, fighting continues in Zacatecoluca. The residents of Zacatecoluca are supporting our fighters by giving them food, water, and supplies. The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front fighters remain firm in the positions they have won in Zacatecoluca, La Paz Department, and are advancing toward other points throughout the city.

FMLN Reports Strafing in Soyapango

PA1411173189 (Clandestine) Cadena Revolucionaria Nacional in Spanish to El Salvador
1548 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] We have a report from San Salvador. The police forces are searching and raiding in Santa Lucia and beating up civilians. There have been reports of some arrests.

Since last night there have been fierce clashes in the Montebello sector. The clashes are continuing this morning. There is also fighting in the Ayutuxtepeque sector right now.

A few moments ago a C-47 plane was indiscriminately strafing the Soyapango sector. There have been aerial attacks in Soyapango since before 0800 this morning until now. The Air Force has fired machine guns and rockets in the Soyapango area.

The Armed Forces are indiscriminatley and massively attacking the civilian population with rockets. Rockets have also been fired at the INDUFOR [expansion unknown] factory. We repeat: The Air Force launched rockets against the INDUFOR factory at 0800.

We call on relief organizations to immediately protect and give medical attention to those wounded by the indiscriminate strafings of civilians.

We call on the international community to criticize the goverment's aim of terrorizing the people to prevent them from rising up in San Salvador. The army has ordered the massacre of civilians in several sectors of the city where the people have expressed their rejection of the fascist government.

Rebels on 3rd Infantry Deserters

PA1411174489 (Clandestine) Cadena Revolucionaria Nacional in Spanish to El Salvador
1551 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] We have just received the following report from San Salvador Department. At 1800 [2300 GMT] on 13 November, rebel units were in downtown San Martin, San Salvador Department. Our rebels attacked the National Guard, Civil Defense, and Municipal Police, and the 5th Military Detachment troops that are protecting the area. The government troops suffered 10 casualties: 8 from the National Guard and 2 from the 5th Military Detachment. We also dislodged the enemy from two of their positions. We maintained control of the San Martin area from 1800-0400 [1000 GMT] this morning. Today, 14 November, our units are still in the San Martin area.

We have also received a report from Apopa stating that our forces extended their area of control. The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] controls several areas in Apopa. Our FMLN forces in northern San Salvador have extended their area of control. They have already dislodged the troops that were guarding the Apopa headquarters. This action began early this morning, and eight Civil Defense and 1st Infantry Brigade casualties have been reported. A subsergeant is among the casualties in Apopa where the FMLN is holding positions.

Meanwhile, we have received another report from San Miguel. Our forces stopped Monterrosa Command forces which were advancing toward El Molino neighborhood. The report adds that during the clash that followed the enemy troops suffered several casualties. This report was sent at 0800 [1300 GMT] from San Miguel where Colonel Vargas' troops have been ordered to advance. However, they are advancing backward.

We have also learned that a section of the 3rd Infantry Brigade in San Miguel refused to obey Col Vargas' orders to advance to El Casino area where heavy fighting is being reported. We repeat: A report from San Miguel states that 3rd Infantry Brigade soldiers are deserting. A 3rd Infantry Brigade soldier has defected, rifle and all, and headed for the neighborhoods under the control of our fighters. The soldier reports that a whole section of the 3rd Infantry Brigade refused to obey Col Vargas' orders to dislodge the FMLN forces. We are going to try and interview the soldier. The soldier reported that a whole section refused to obey Col Vargas' orders and that the soldiers are demoralized. The report adds that all is chaos and confusion within the 3rd Infantry Brigade and that Col Vargas is having problems coordinating his actions. He has concentrated troops in certain areas where clashes between the 3rd Infantry Brigade and National Police troops developed. The defector added that there is total disorganization within the 3rd Infantry Brigade and that Col Vargas has been heard screaming at soldiers who have refused to patrol the San Miguel area. That is the way Col Vargas is behaving according to the report from the soldier who defected from the 3rd Infantry Brigade.

Army Reports 909 Casualties

PA1411180489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran Army reported today that 909 persons—soldiers, rebels, and civilians—have been killed or wounded in the past 3 days as a result of the fighting going on. The report adds that 432 persons have died, and 477 have been wounded.

Army spokesman Colonel Raul Arturo Lopez also confirmed that a 24-hour curfew has been ordered in the densely populated neighborhoods of Ilopango, Santa Lucia, Soyapango, Mejicanos, Zacamil, Ciudad Delgado, and Ayutuxtepeque, all located in the northern and eastern sectors of the city.

According to the Army spokesman, this measure was ordered to control the guerrilla redoubts that remain in these neighborhoods.

The Armed Forces have said that they are not aware of a truce offered this morning by the guerrillas to allow help to get to the civilian population trapped in the trouble spots.

Armed Forces Report Developments

PA1411184989 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1719 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Here is a report on Armed Forces military actions: In the 1st Military Zone clashes were reported in the areas of San Jose Guayabal and San Martin, where the rebels were turned back by the soldiers assigned to the areas. The rebels left supplies and ammunition behind.

In the Maquilishuat neighborhood in southwestern San Salvador, soldiers from the Belloso Battalion forced terrorist troops who were roaming the area to flee. Clashes were reported in the vicinity of the San Benito and San Francisco neighborhoods, where the troops repelled the terrorists who were trying to close in on these residential areas.

In the township of El Tule Aguilares, clashes were reported between 4th Brigade troops and terrorists from the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. The terrorists were repelled and fled in disarray.

Encounters with FMLN terrorists also occurred on San Antonio Avenue, in the area of Cuscatacingo. The attackers fled, carrying several wounded comrades with them.

In Soyapango, the FMLN subversives coldbloodedly murdered two watchmen at the Insa factory.

Feeling hounded and hemmed in by the Armed Forces troops, the FMLN terrorists continue to resort to [3-second break in reception] to kidnap youths, on this occasion from the Amatepec neighborhood on the outskirts of San Salvador.

In Ciudad Delgado, members of the security corps arrested three persons and confiscated the following material they were carrying: three M-16 rifles, a 45-caliber pistol, and ammunition for M-16 and AK-47 rifles. In the town of San Marcos, the Bracamonte Battalion confiscated an AK-47 rifle and a hand grenade.

The FMLN terrorists who are making a desperate retreat from the suburbs of San Salvador have abandoned 27 of their dead comrades in Ciudad Credisa. These people shed their blood in vain for ideals that do not truly seek the welfare of Salvadorans, but instead the implementation of the opprobious and totalitarian dictatorship that the FMLN terrorists would like to impose. There is no place for the FMLN here in El Salvador: It has always taken a warlike, violent position opposed to the interests of the civilian population.

The Armed Forces has control over the small redoubts in which the terrorists, trying to save their lives, are hiding in the homes of defenseless Salvadorans.

Deserters Report Low Rebel Morale

PA1411194689 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1801 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] While trying to guarantee the citizens' security and defend democracy in El Salvador, Armed Forces troops have discovered a safe house of the terrorist groups in San Marcos and seized 6 high-caliber rifles, 12,485 rounds of ammunition, 330 pounds of explosives, 16 fragmentation grenades, 1,520 dynamite blasting caps, and 2 radios. Of the ammunition, 10,400 rounds are for Soviet-made AK-47 rifles.

Many terrorists have surrendered to the Armed Forces during the last few hours. Among them are Santos Torres Hernandez and Julio Ramirez, who turned in two rifles, over 500 rounds of ammunition, explosives, and other war materiel. The two subversives said that at this moment the insurgents are worn out and have no desire to continue fighting against the Salvadoran people. In addition, the subversives admitted that the Armed Forces are in control of the situation in San Salvador and the interior.

Air Force Resumes Bombing

PA1411202089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2000 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The Air Force this afternoon resumed its attacks on the northeastern sectors of San Salvador where the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] rebels have been entrenched since Saturday.

At least four planes, three "push-pulls" and an "A-37" have been strafing and bombing the rebel positions in Zacamil, Ayutuxtepeque, and Soyapango since 1330 (1930 GMT).

The planes fly around in circles and dive against the rebel positions. Immediately following this, the echos of heavy-caliber machine guns and explosions can be heard causing panic among the civilian population in San Salvador.

The rebels respond with rifle and machine-gun fire.

Police Reportedly Flee Cuscatancingo

PA1411210989 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2004 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] The National Police forces in Cuscatancingo have fled. They have been forced to flee their position in Cuscatancingo in northern San Salvador in disarray. Meanwhile, the enemy is using flamethrowers at the very center of Mejicanos, affecting the area in which the marketplace and multiple-family homes are located.

We repeat, between 1310 and 1350, the National Police forces, who are so brave when suppressing the people and fighting the mothers' committees, fled in disarray from Cuscatancingo when the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] attacked them.

At this hour, 1407, an A-37 Dragonfly plane has shown up. It is flying over the areas of (?Tejutepeque), Mejicanos, Zacamil, [words indistinct]. During the last 30 minutes, an O-2 "push-pull" [preceeding word in English] plane has fired rockets at the Zacamil area, while a C-47 also straffed the same area.

Further on Bombings

PA1411212789 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1909 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Our forces have also engaged troops posted at the Presidente Hotel and in its vicinity, but once again respected the U.S. ambassador's residence. During the entire maneuver we inflicted approximately 20 casualties on the enemy, but we did not lose any men.

Meanwhile, we have had reports from San Salvador that the Air Force is bombing heavily densely populated areas in the sector of Ciudad Delgado. Commander Carlos announced this at a news conference in San Salvador: A government that bombs the people is an illegitimate government; a government facing thousands of Salvadorans in arms is an illegitimate government; and a government that massacres the people is an illegitimate government; and an illegitimate government must be toppled by our forces.

Now, we have a last-minute report from San Salvador. At this very moment, an O-2 airplane is firing rockets at the area of Zacamil, where heavy fighting is under way. It has been reported that there have been civilian casualties in this attack. It has also been confirmed that the three armored personnel carriers that were destroyed in Zacamil were destroyed on the street that joins the Zacamil neighborhood with the Metropoli neighborhood.

In another report from our companeros in Soyapango, they have informed us that they have seen a U.S. adviser leading the troops in the sector of Soyapango. It is presumed that this North American is the one who is directing the air attack in the sector of Soyapango. C-47 airplanes as well as UH-1M, Huey 500, and UH-1H helicopters, all U.S. made, have been throwing rockets on and machinegunning the sectors of Soyapango and Ciudad Delgado. The fascist regime of La Tandona [name given to 1966 graduates of Captain Gerardo Barrios Military Academy], Cristiani, and D'Aubuisson have decreed a curfew in all of the areas under the control of our forces in the northern part of San Salvador to ensure that there are no witnesses of their indiscriminate bombing. We issue an urgent call to the Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations to go to Soyapango, where there have been dozens of civilian casualties. We also issue an urgent appeal to the democratic Latin American Governments so that they can [words indistinct] the fascist government of Alfredo Cristiani, to get him to stop this indiscriminate bombing once and for all.

A report from the capital states that FMLN forces this afternoon are attacking Zacamil Battalion positions and harrassing the Armed Forces' joint chiefs of staff. On this 4th day of fighting in the capital, roadblocks continue to multiply throughout. This is the second attack on the joint chiefs of staff in less than 24 hours.

As reported on the evening of 13 November, we attacked the San Benito Battalion at the national fair grounds and the forces guarding the joint chiefs of staff. This is the second harrassment attack on the joint chiefs of staff. This complicates the Armed Forces' situation in the capital because the enemy Armed Forces' top leadership is being attacked and harrassed. FMLN forces are besieging the enemy.

Air Force aircrafts continue to overfly the northern area of the capital this afternoon. They continue to machinegun and bomb the civilian population. Moments ago, we reported that there was heavy bombing in Zacamil against the population. We call on the International Red Cross Committee to go immediately to Zacamil to evacuate civilians who might have survived these cowardly and bloody Air Force bombings.

Air Force Reportedly Bombs Zacamil

PA1411214789 Paris AFP in Spanish 2008 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Nov (AFP) — The Salvadoran Air Force this afternoon attacked the densely populated neighborhood of Zacamil in northern San Salvador to expel guerrilla groups entrenched in the neighborhood since 11 November, according to reports from Zacamil residents.

Three Salvadoran Air Force planes lead the operation against Zacamil—where some 100,000 people live—which lasted for 30 minutes. The operation began at 1315 local time (1815 GMT). At this time, the number of casualties is unknown.

According to the reports, Zacamil residents and people in the northern section of San Salvador evacuated the area after being frightened by the government counteroffensive.

Rebel Radio Interviews Commander

PA1411221689 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1956 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] We have a report from our commanding post in San Salvador. We have an interview with Commander Claudio Rabindranath Armijo. Because of certain problems with the communications, the questions will not be clear, but the answers will be.

[Reporter] Commander Claudio Rabindranath Armijo, we are interviewing you from Radio Venceremos here in Morazan Department. We have heard reports from Central American radio stations speaking about rocket fire and bombings in Zacamil neighborhood. Could you tell us about the current situation?

[Armijo] We have been holding our position for about 3 days [words indistinct]. Currently, there is rocket and machinegun fire being launched against our positions. The enemy is desperate. This morning we repelled an attack. They fled in disarray because no one came to support them.

[Reporter] The fascist disinformation network has been saying that the people are not supporting the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. What is the people's attitude toward the FMLN fighters in Zacamil neighborhood?

[Armijo] Their conduct has been positive. They have been helping us treat the wounded. They have helped us with food problems. They have supported us completely by placing barricades on the streets. The people's support in this area is completely different from what the enemy's psychological war is trying to accomplish.

[Reporter] We have received information from our comrades in Soyapango who say that they have seen a U.S. adviser leading enemy troops in San Salvador. Have any of your men seen any U.S. advisers? [Armijo] [word indistinct] not seen them, but [passage indistinct].

[Reporter] What is the morale of the FMLN troops particularly in the Zacamil area? The fascist information network has been saying that FMLN troops are leaving their posts.

[Armijo] Their morale is high. We are encouraged by the people's support. We are very determined. The enemy's attacks have been repelled.

[Reporter] Could you send a message to FMLN troops in Zacamil neighborhood and to those in the northern and southern parts of the capital as well as to FMLN fighters holding their positions in other parts of the country?

[Armijo] The people are currently supporting us. We are waging one of the most important battles in the last few years. The outlook for victory depends on what each of us does. We must keep moving forward.

This has been a recorded interview. We interviewed Commander Claudio Rabindranath Armijo a few minutes ago. He is currently at a command post in San Salvador.

Rebels Claim Attack on Joint Staff

PA1411232489 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2303 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Today, 14 November, new attacks are taking place against positions of the joint staff of the Armed Forces. The Pink Zone [La Zona Rosa] is turning black for the enemy. Our forces are clashing with the Zacamil Battalion.

We have a report from the capital saying that this afternoon, Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] forces were strongly attacking Zacamil Battalion troops. The FMLN troops are harassing the joint staff of the Armed Forces at this time. Barricades are being set up throughout the capital on this 4th day of fighting.

This is the second attack on the joint staff in less than 24 hours because, as we said last night, FMLN troops initiated attacks against the San Benito Battalion at the international fair and against the forces defending the joint staff of the Armed Forces.

This is the second attack against the joint staff, which complicates the overall situation for the Armed Forces in the capital. We are attacking the top command of the enemy forces. FMLN forces are attacking the heart and the brain of the enemy.

Salvadoran Air Force planes are overflying areas north of the capital, and they continue machinegunning and bombing civilian areas. A few minutes ago, we reported heavy bombing in Zacamil neighborhood.

Rebel Commander Interviewed

PA1411233989 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 2139 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Interview with Commander Jorge Melendez, also known as Commander Jonas, by unidentified reporter in San Miguel—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Comrade Jorge Melendez, our first question is the following: On 13 November, Colonel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas said that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] would be evicted within 8 hours from our beloved San Miguel. Col

Vargas has yet to fulfill this pledge, 24 hours later, and quite the contrary, he seems to be withdrawing it. Since you are in San Miguel, we would like to hear your views on Col Vargas' statement.

[Melendez] [Words indistinct] support the FMLN's actions. A confident attitude prevails in knowing that as the days go by and we maintain our positions, we are proving our capacity for guidance and for analyzing both our military forces' situation and the civilian population's situation, and proving our capacity for organizing what could be considered the local authority and the civilians' daily activities. This entire area is having problems with the lack of representatives from international organizations which should protect the population's rights and help to organize the medical services and distribution of medicine, and [words indistinct], in other words, play a supervisory role. As far as the FMLN is concerned, everyone has stated his sympathy and many have joined our forces in an enthusiastic, decided, and confident way.

[Reporter] Following a music break we will ask Comrade Jorge Melendez another question. [music break follows]

[Reporter] What are your comments on the 8-hour ultimatum to disperse our forces issued by Col Vargas on 13 November?

[Melendez] Well, I interpret this as an act of desperation because Vargas is a La Tandona [name given to 1966 graduates of Captain Gerardo Barrios Military Academy] man. Country, democracy, or the loss of a legitimate government is not what is at stake. It is the other way around. We are on the threshold of democracy and the beginning of an all-encompassing government which will include all sectors. However, the dictatorial military structure presently headed by top military officers and which was created by the oligarchy will come to an end. [30-second break in reception] Honestly, Vargas' words made me very angry, because he is sending soldiers who are peasants, workers, and students to their deaths. He is sending them to defend his privileges and interests as well as those of his companions. This is mean and a total injustice, but this is what is happening. As I said and [changes thought] I think there is a need to call on the soldiers and officers to desert and not obey orders. We must call on them to rebel against a situation that is totally crazy and making them confront the people. They must do this without really being able to do so and do it to defend Vargas' interests at the cost of their own lives. Now, as for whether his demands are feasible or not, it seems to me that his statements are a result of the crisis and desperation among the La Tandona officers.

[Reporter] Correct. Commander Melendez, please tell Radio Venceremos what the situation in San Miguel is now? Where are our forces? Please tell our listeners what is really happening in San Miguel, because the national radio network is broadcasting distorted information.

[Melendez] So far, the areas that are controlled by the FMLN are totally stable. There is fierce fighting with Arce Battalion troops and they are suffering numerous casualties. The fighting is in progress mostly in the military route areas which include Esmeralda, Lopez, and the Urbeta communities. There are also ongoing clashes in the El Molino neighborhood. Fighting has taken place in the 7 September neighborhood behind the stadium. What we have observed up to now is that our men have made the Arce troops flee in disarray near the San Antonio sector. We have seen many soldiers from the Domingo Monterrosa Special Forces hesitate and fall near El Molino neighborhood. We have also seen many Arce Battalion soldiers fall near the military route sector. We have destroyed a cavalry corps light tank and this action left several soldiers dead and wounded.

Col Vargas' reaction was to become desperate, because 90-mm, 60-mm, and 81-mm mortars, and 85-mm field guns have been indiscriminately fired against that sector of the neighborhood for 3 days; rockets have been fired from airplanes. Many civilians have been wounded and many houses have been destroyed. In other words, there has been no respect whatsoever—perhaps because those neighborhoods are located closest to the 3d Infantry Brigade, and that seems to worry this man very much. This could be the reason for such an attitude and for that genocidal situation.

In other places, clashes occurred practically all day long on 12 and 13 November and during the early morning hours of 14 November in the Milagro de la Paz neighborhood, where we caused a considerable number of casualties. In addition, our forces foiled and stopped the Arce Battalion, Ponce Battalion, Leon Battalion, and the Monterrosa Forces [78-second break in reception] surveillance and security measures, and to handle any type of emergency, including bombings, mortar attacks, and strafings. This means that the terrain must be prepared to defend the population.

We also have a number of instructions regarding the tasks to be done during times of combat, but this is geared toward the people who decide to participate by directly supporting the FMLN. This involves many people. They can join new forces and groups in charge of the trenches, security measures, couriers, and all kinds of tasks to support the war.

In sum, the instructions to the population are to organize themselves because, once organized, they can give [4-second break in reception] and counter it. The other issue is the calls to the population to participate in the struggle and above all [7-second break in reception] not to let anyone intimidate them. They should not let anyone stop them from going out to purchase their food and whatever else they need.

Given the emergency situation and the shortage of medicine and food, we think it is necessary for the people of San Miguel to open the stores where they can get food, medicine, and any other items which are urgently needed for their [word indistinct] and survival. That is all for now. Greetings to the comrades who are listening in the capital, all the comrade fighters, and the Salvadoran people in general. Their high morale and active role in the capital makes us feel proud. We have seen that the victory is guaranteed. We are prepared to do likewise and we send them the courageous, fraternal, and revolutionary greetings from all the commanders and fighters in San Miguel.

Rebels 'Liberated' Municipalities

PA1511012689 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0037 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Attention, attention, attention. The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has declared an area of 6,000 square km in seven departments of the country as liberated territory. These are the departments: 1. La Union. 2. Morazan. 3. San Miguel. 4. Usulutan. 5. San Vicente. 6. Cabanas. 7. Cuscatlan. 8. Chalatenango. We correct ourselves, it is eight departments.

Radio Venceremos reports to our people that our General Command has declared an area of 6,000 square km in the eight mentioned departments as liberated territory. Following is a preliminary list of the municipalities located in the liberated territories of Morazan, San Miguel, and Usulutan:

List of municipalities in Morazan Department: Chilanga, Gualococti, San Simon, San Isidro, Meanguera, Villa El Rosario, Jocoaitique, Arambala, Perquin, San Fernando, and Torola.

The General Command, on declaring these 6,000 square km liberated territory, includes three municipalities in San Miguel Department: San Luis de la Reina, San Gerardo, and Nuevo Eden de San Juan.

Following are the municipalities in Usulutan: Ozatlan, Santa Elena, San Francisco Javier, and San Agustin.

Local people's governments have been comprised in many of these municipalities and they have started to rule through decrees.

We urge the people's governments to make the task of supporting the FMLN fighters who are in the cities a priority. The FMLN General Command instructs them to organize militia detachments; hold weapons workshops in each community; organize the society in those liberated municipalities; gather food, medicine, and supplies; and organize the mechanisms for sending these supplies to the combat zones in the cities.

In future broadcasts Radio Venceremos will provide the list of liberated municipalities in La Union, San Vicente, Cabanas, Cuscatlan [passage indistinct].

Armed Forces Reported in Control

PA1411230789 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 2204 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Attention, attention, Salvadoran people. This is Cadena Nacional, the network of freedom, the Salvadoran people's network. Attention, Salvadoran people:

The terrorist hordes of the Farbundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN) have been defeated by our brave Armed Forces, who have gone out to defend our sovereignty, integrity, and the lives and properties of all Salvadorans.

The Salvadoran people are supporting their Armed Forces and President Alfredo Cristiani.

At this time, the FMLN criminals are receiving the punishement they deserve through the glorious weapons of the Salvadoran Armed Forces.

The cowardly FMLN terrorist groups have been hiding since 11 November in the homes of defenseless civilians. They are cowards. They are like those coward criminals who after committing murder run to hide behind a woman's skirt. That is what those terrorists are doing. They are hiding under the beds of the population, which is suffering because of the terrorists' attacks. They are cowards who have treacherously attacked and bombed the people.

A few hours ago, the liar terrorist Joaquin Villalobos, from his hotel room in Managua—where he has air conditioning and lots of food—said that the FMLN has seized positions, which is not true. All towns in the country are under the government's political control and under the Armed Forces' military control.

We must inform you that there are only a few areas where terrorists have sought refuge in houses and are acting as snipers. However, the Armed Forces are trying to dislodge them in a professional manner not to harm civilians.

The cowards are hiding in a few areas. We must tell you that the areas where there is some resistance are Ilopango, Colonia Santa Lucia, Soyapango, Mejicanos, Zacamil, Ayutuxtepeque, and Ciudad Delgado.

Salvadorans who are in those areas, victims of the terrorists: From here your Salvadoran brothers, your brothers in the Armed Forces, tell you that we are at your side at this time of struggle, during this sad time when you are faced with hunger and death threats by the FMLN terrorist hordes. We are at your side, compatriot! We are with you Salvadoran people! Your Armed Forces will not abandon you. You can be sure that all this will soon be over. We will soon dislodge these mangy dogs who have come with Ortega's weapons and terrorist hordes, who have come here to massacre the Salvadoran people. We are with you, compatriot! Stay where you are. Remain calm, as you will soon be freed from the terrorist hordes.

Ilopango, Colonia Santa Lucia, Soyapango, Mejicanos, Zacamil, Ayutuxtepeque, and Ciudad Delgado: Remember that your government and Cristiani are at the head of the Armed Forces, and that your Armed Forces are united, professional, and patriotic in struggling to defend you from this brutal and bestial attack that we denounce before the world.

Why is it that no one says anything? Why do journalists in Europe say nothing about what is happening? Why do they not tell the truth? They only repeat the lies of Radio Venceremos and the liar Radio Farabundo Marti. The people's truth is here. Here is the truth of our people, who have endured the terrorist attacks for 10 years!

Salvadoran people: Be brave and united, full of patriotism, and sure of our victory. Our fatherland is free! Our Armed Forces are gloriously fighting! Forward, Armed Forces! Forward, Salvadoran people!

Rebels: Army Using Green Cross

PA1511011389 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0005 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Attention; pay close attention. We have received the following report from Zacatecoluca, La Paz Department:

We denounce—our comrades have denounced—the role played by the Green Cross, which has been dislodging the population in the following neighborhoods: 27 de Septiembre, Chinchontepec, and Santa Lucia, located in northern Zacatecoluca.

The Green Cross is serving as an instrument for DMIFA [Armed Forces Engineers' Military Detachment] to dislodge the population. Some DMIFA agents are wearing Green Cross uniforms to do that job. They go from house to house, identifying themselves with Green Cross documents. They are asking families one by one to move out, telling them that those areas will be bombed.

We urge organizations such as the Red Cross, the Green Cross, and rescue teams not to permit the use of insignias, uniforms, and vehicles of humanitarian organizations by Army troops.

The dislodging of people in San Salvador and now in the 27 de Septiembre neighborhood in Zacatecoluca is being done in order to proceed with the bombing of these densely populated civilian neighborhoods.

Military Raids Communications Center

PA1511013789 Paris AFP in Spanish 0026 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Nov (AFP)—Thirteen members of the Salvadoran Armed Forces raided the Communicators Center (CDC), which offers news services to foreign television networks this afternoon, it was reported by foreign correspondents in San Salvador.

The military took several video cassettes and notebooks of the CDC, which operates in a 2-story building in the western sector of the Salvadoran capital. The U.S. newspapers THE WASHINGTON POST and MIAMI HERALD, and the Mexican television network Televisa operate out of that building.

The military actions only affected the CDC, not the other foreign media.

"The foreign press is on the guerrilla forces' side," one of the military members said when questioned by the CDC journalists.

The operation was carried out by combined forces of the Salvadoran Treasury Police and Army at a time when the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) is waging a national offensive against Alfredo Cristiani's right-wing government for the 3d consecutive day.

FMLN Issues War Bulletin No 3

PA1511024089 (Clandestine) Cadena Revolucionaria Nacional in Spanish to El Salvador 0137 GMT 15 Nov 89

["War Bulletin No 3" issued by the General Command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front in El Salvador on 14 November]

[Text] The Army failed today in its attempt to recover the positions taken over by our forces on 11 November in the country's main cities.

The enemy's counteroffensive resulted in more bloodshed among its ranks. The Army sowed terror and death among the civilian population by carrying out indiscriminate machinegunning and bombings against densely populated areas in Apopa, the Hermita and Obrera neighborhoods, the cemetery area, the Santa Elena neighborhood, the outskirts of Usulutan, La Esmeralda neighborhood, La Coquera and El Granillo in San Miguel, the northern main highway, Zacatecoluca, Soyapango, Ayutuxtepeque, and Zacamil.

In many of these places, the air raids lasted practically all day, producing numerous casualties among men, women, and children, and destroying many houses and other buildings.

In overcoming the Army's counteroffensive, we have maintained absolute control of all our positions in the various parts of the country.

We have inflicted the following cumulative damage to the enemy: Approximately 760 casualties, 24 armored vehicles out of combat, as well as 11 helicopters and planes.

Support for the transportation stoppage has been total in almost all parts of the country.

Only 24 hours after summoning the people for a general rebellion, people have massively joined in the tasks of collaboration and support or have directly participated in combat.

The decree declaring a 24-hour curfew in the northern part of San Salvador shows that what the Army is facing throughout the country is not the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] but the people's growing rebellion.

Our heroic fighters have responded with the usual vigor and efficiency to the order given by our General Command to hold the positions conquered and immediately organize the people's general uprising.

Out with the fascists; Febe Elizabeth lives!

[Signed] FMLN General Command

Commanders Salvador Sanchez Seren, Francisco Jovel,

Eduardo Sancho, Shafik Jorge Handal, and

Joaquin Villalobos

El Salvador, 14 November 1989

Officials on Casualties

PA1511041589 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 14 Nov 89 p 3

[Text] Officials reported that 220 terrorists have been killed, 196 wounded, and 22 captured during the clashes that took place in the area of the university and its outskirts.

Among the war materiel confiscated: a surface-to-air missile, 140 high-caliber rifles, 6 LAW rocket launchers, and machineguns.

An Armed Forces Press Committee [COPREFA] spokesman stated that they were not authorized to release any official information on the 11, 12, and 13 November events.

Military sources who were questioned stated that according to initial reports—reports which are unofficial and cover only up to the afternoon of 13 November—received from soldiers who fought against the extremists positioned at the El Salvador University, the terrorists suffered more than 400 casualties. These casualties were distributed in the following manner: 220 killed, 196 wounded, and 22 captured.

The confiscated war materiel included a Soviet-made surface-to-air missile—considered the most important catch; 140 high-caliber rifles including 74 AK-47 assault rifles, LAW rocket launchers, 2 M-79 grenade launchers, 3 UZI machineguns, 50 grenades, 2 Dragunov rifles for snipers, and 38 blasting caps, approximately 1000 M-16 cartridges; and 136 AK-47 cartridges.

Also confiscated were four knapsacks containing clothing and communist propaganda, five TNT blocks, two olive-green uniforms, and material to manufacture explosives.

Officials reported that the confiscated Soviet missile was part of a 15-missile lot that entered Salvadoran territory from Nicaragua and that had originally been stored in Perquin, Morazan Department.

The source added that it was a very sophisticated weapon and that its presence in Salvadoran territory confirms that once again the Sandinist government has supplied weapons to the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front]. The Sandinist government continues to supply weapons despite the promise made by President Daniel Ortega at Tela, Honduras that his regime would no longer supply weapons to the Salvadoran terrorist groups.

President Cristiani Addresses Nation 15 Nov

PA1511051189 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 0308 GMT 15 Nov

[Address to the nation by President Alfredo Cristiani; place not given—live]

[Text] Good evening, Salvadoran people—if I may say, so despite the circumstances affecting the capital city. It is regrettable and inconceivable that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] should persist with the aggression it has unleashed against our capital city and surrounding municipalities. Our population has suffered the most from this FMLN aggression.

This aggression, Salvadoran friends, must be seen as an act of desperation by the FMLN, as this is the only way we can explain their irrational actions. I have used the word desperation because the FMLN knows that it is out of style and that its attitudes are no longer accepted in the world. We can see in Europe that countries have passed from totalitarian regimes such as the one that the FMLN wants to implement here, and walls are open for liberty and democracy.

We are sure that this is what the Salvadoran people want: liberty and democracy. That is why they have not supported and will never support the FMLN terrorists who want to subject the Salvadoran people to totalitarian regimes, to dictatorships of oppression, repression, and violation of human rights.

I was saying that this is a desperate act because we cannot see how anyone who is not desperate could cause so much harm to innocent people and to the civilian population. There are already more than 100 dead or wounded because of the FMLN's irrational actions. Of course, to that we must add that they destroyed many homes which they entered and have held families as hostages. They have damaged the electricity, potable water, and telephone systems, depriving the population of those essential services, not to mention the lack of food affecting the civilian population in the areas where they are holding hostages.

In addition, it is appropriate to see how far the FMLN terrorists' irrational minds can go, because they have carried out acts of savagery that we cannot understand. How can there still be anyone like the Nicaraguans—and

I am talking about the Nicaraguan Government, of course, not all Nicaraguans—and the Cubans, who support such acts of savagery.

Holding civilians as hostages, putting them in the middle so that they will be the ones who are hurt, and shielding themselves behind innocent people is an act of savagery, Salvadoran people.

Taking over a center for orphan children in order to protect themselves behind little children who do not have a father or a mother is an act of savagery, Salvadoran people.

They even did something worse at the Zacatecoluca Hospital and the people witnessed this. When they entered the hospital in Zacatecoluca, they murdered, at gunpoint, a soldier who was receiving medical attention; they placed bombs inside the hospital and then fled.

Salvadoran people: The FMLN is already a desperate beast. This is the only thing we can say about such irrational minds. However, we must realize and understand, and above all, be sure that the majority of our people repudiate the FMLN terrorists.

The people must know that they can count on their Armed Forces which have advanced slowly, but surely. It is advancing slowly because it wants to fully protect the lives of civilians. The Armed Forces could drive those terrorists out of where they are; however, there are civilians there, and we would never want to expose those civilians to the danger the FMLN is trying to lead them into. The Armed Forces have continued to advance. They have effectively advanced, using professional means. For example, neighborhoods such as Bosques del Rio are totally calm now, because the Armed Forces have already entered and forced the terrorists out. We know that all of you would like to see an end to this terror that the FMLN wants to create. However, we must also understand, particularly those of us who are not as anguished at this moment as those families that have become FMLN hostages. They too, deserve that we do everything we can to achieve our objective; however, we must do so respecting the lives of those innocent people. The FMLN failed to achieve its objective.

The FMLN failed even before it tried to enter our country....[corrects himself] our capital, and this was stated by terrorists who have surrendered and terrorists who have been apprehended. They said that they were brought to the capital under false pretenses. They were led to believe that they were going along for a ride and that all the people would support them, and that the Armed Forces would not put up a fight. This, more than anything else, has been the harshest blow for the FMLN because the Salvadoran people rejected and spurned them when they tried to expose the people to so much danger and harm.

It was also satisfactory to hear the many statements of support and solidarity given by so many Salvadorans. They have talked through the national network and every other means of communication, and have rejected and spurned the FMLN and its terrorist actions. Furthermore, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministries of Agriculture and Economy are drafting a program to help the neighborhoods which have been affected by the FMLN's actions—once everything is calm—and to resupply the supermarkets and stores as quickly as possible. We know the people have had problems getting food for the last 2 and ½ days and the supplies should be brought as soon as possible.

Salvadoran people, we do not want to end this address without stating our deep gratitude for your—and the other Salvadoran people's—courageous attitude in the face of the FMLN aggression. We can only feel proud about the messages of support—not for us on a personal basis but for the democratic system, the rights that the Salvadoran people demand—and for the support given to the Armed Forces, whose morale is high and who take pride in the professionalism which they have acquired throughout the years to counter the situation in the shortest time possible.

We know that the FMLN has failed, and now it is a matter of time before the Armed Forces manage to turn the situation around completely. also, we want to state our deep gratitude to the friendly countries that have shown their support and solidarity—most of all their solidarity with you, the Salvadoran people—because there have been statements which, frankly, have filled us with emotion. For example, those of Costa Rica, the United Staes, Guatemala, and, in short, all the other countries that know perfectly well how irrational the FMLN's aggression is. They have realized that the government and the republic, which are the result of the Salvadoran people's will, have begun a rational, peaceful, and democratic process to achieve peace in our country.

To conclude, Salvadoran people, we request your support and understanding; but also your trust and serenity. You can rest assured that the Armed Forces and the government will emerge victorious from the aggression which the FMLN terrorists have launched. It is a desperate action and, in countering the situation, we will be much closer to the peace we want so much. May God bless you all and thank you.

Cristiani Claims Nicaragua, Panama Aiding Rebels

PA1511003189 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
2350 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—This afternoon Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani denied that the guerrillas have "liberated territories" in the country, as was announced by the clandestine "Radio Venceremos." He also denied the report that the Army is bombing civilian townships.

Cristiani announced at a news conference that there is "a triangle" consisting of Panamanian General Manuel Antonio Noriega, Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) involved in the rebel offensive. He said, however, that he could not provide any more details.

The president stated that the situation in El Salvador is controlled, but admitted that there are still rebel "redoubts" in densely populated zones.

According to Cristiani, who was holding his first news conference since the offensive began on 11 November, the Armed Forces are advancing slowly but surely "so as not to affect the civilian population."

Plan To Kidnap President Cristiani Revealed

PA1511000889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2140 GMT 14 Nov 89

[By Ricardo Chacon]

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Nov (ACAN - EFE)— Political and diplomatic sources today revealed that the Salvadoran guerrillas tried to kidnap Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani and other officials of the right-wing government on 11 November when they launched the largest military offensive of the past 10 years.

A neighbor of the president in the luxurious residential area of "Maquilishuat," in northern San Salvador, said that "the guerrillas managed to enter President Cristiani's home, but could not kidnap him because he was not there."

Leaders of the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) have confirmed that Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) guerrillas had planned to kidnap President Cristiani "but we do not know why."

A ranking official told ACAN - EFE that "we have agreed that in the event of a kidnapping there would be no rescue."

"Ever since we were installed in government we knew that we could end up on the floor (dead)," said an official who asked to remain anonymous.

Diplomatic circles are also commenting on reports regarding the kidnapping of Cristiani and top government leaders. They confirmed to ACAN - EFE that the guerrillas who attacked Cristiani's residence were wearing military uniforms.

Some sources maintain that the disguised guerrillas subdued presidential residence guards and entered Cristiani's home, but neither the president nor any of his relatives were there.

Sources close to the president assure that Cristiani, his wife Margarita, and other relatives were at a countryside home in "Coatepeque Lake," however, this claim could not be confirmed.

Most ministers and government officials were resting at countryside homes in different parts of the country, but Congress President Ricardo Valdivieso and Vice President Roberto Angulo were in their respective homes when the guerrillas attacked and both of them fought back with their weapons.

The FMLN on 11 November began a large-scale military offensive that included attacks at more than 50 points nationwide, especially Army positions. These attacks have yielded about 1,000 casualties among civilians, rebels, and soldiers.

Some sources claim that the residence of Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes, leader of the Authentic Christian Movement (MAC), was also attacked by the guerrillas, but this report has not yet been confirmed.

Fierce fighting between the Army and guerrillas, especially in densely-populated neighborhoods in northeast San Salvador, where the rebels are entrenched, continues 3 days after the offensive began.

Commander Joaquin Villalobos, 1 of the 5 top FMLN leaders, announced that 7 of the country's 14 departments were declared "liberated zones."

The rebels maintain that the offensive is designed to bring the government and FMLN "to an equal footing" in seeking a negotiated political solution to the war conflict.

A guerrilla who was interviewed by ACAN - EFE in a San Salvador neighborhood said that "the offensive aims to topple President Cristiani and destroy the fascist repressive plan."

Some diplomats maintain that the government and Army had been expecting this offensive for several months, but underestimated it, because they thought that there would be two or three violent outbreaks and not a nationwide large-scale offensive such as the one that began on 11 November.

"We cannot figure out how the guerrillas managed to reach Cristiani's residence," a source said.

Defense Minister Denies Civilians Bombed

PA1511012089 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0025 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran Defense Minister General Humberto Larios declared today that between 1,000 and 1,500 Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) guerrillas have been fighting in the capital since last Saturday.

The defense minister denied that the Army is bombing civilian areas, as the guerrillas charged today.

Larios admitted that the rebels have hit "four or five helicopters" and several Army radio patrol vehicles but added that they have not destroyed any armored vehicles.

The military leader said that the Army is not dropping heavy bombs on the townships in which guerrillas have taken refuge in order to "protect the civilian population."

President Alfredo Cristiani denied that the guerrillas have "liberated territories," as the FMLN announced today.

Officer Denies Help Asked of Guatemala, Honduras

PA1411175989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1641 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Guatemala City, 14 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—Salvadoran Colonel Antonio Diaz said in Guatemala City today that the Salvadoran Army has not considered requesting military assistance from either Guatemala or Honduras to cope with the offensive that the rebels unleashed on 11 November.

"The situation is not that serious," the officer said to the reporters who asked him whether his government had considered requesting aid from Guatemala and Honduras, countries with which El Salvador shares borders.

Diaz is the Salvadoran Armed Forces delegate at the Third American Armies Conference [CEA] being held in Guatemala City since 13 November.

Diaz said the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] offensive, which started on 11 November, is an "aggression" against the civilian population and a "desperate" effort by the rebels to achieve power "through violence."

The FMLN offensive started on 11 November. According to the rebels, the casualties, including both dead and wounded, are estimated at 1,000.

According to Diaz, the Salvadoran people "have repelled" the FMLN actions. He also said the Armed Forces "are making the necessary efforts to restore the peace of mind that the people need." Diaz added that most of the clashes have taken place on the capital's northern periphery but that the situation "is under control."

In conclusion, he said: "There are only a few small groups of guerrillas who have seized some homes and are keeping the residents hostage."

Rivera y Damas Condemns Violence, Urges Prudence

PA1311003989 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2159 GMT 12 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Nov (DPA)—Archbishop of San Salvador, Msgr Arturo Rivera y Damas today condemned the violence of the past few hours resulting from an offensive that has killed innocent victims. He recalled that he has been struggling for 10 years for a rational solution to the conflict through dialogue.

The archbishop condemned the rebel offensive because "although it may be regarded as a military action, it is obvious that it is also an intimidation measure against the civilian population which has endangered lives and killed innocent victims."

The prelate issued a call for prudence and reflection on the futility of a military struggle to solve the conflict affecting the Salvadoran people.

He also said that the attack is an episode that creates doubts regarding the promises of dialogue made by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLM] and the posssibility of finding a solution for the conflict.

He stressed that what is worse is that "those actions could become the justification for those who only believe in a military solution."

Rivera y Damas expressed his admiration for the way in which the Salvadoran people have handled the situation, including those who live in depressed areas as this puts them in more danger.

Rivera y Damas stressed that this is a challenge for Alfredo Cristiani's government. He said: "It is a great challenge to take measures that will clarify the execrable attack on the FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers' National Union Federation] offices that killed 10 people."

"The difficulties that have emerged show the people's skepticism regarding knowing the truth and punishing those responsible for the attack," Rivera y Damas stressed.

Within the framework of violence, he also condemned the death of two children during an attack on the National Guard on 11 November.

Relatives Confirm Leftists Seek Asylum

PA1411181489 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1720 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Panama City, 14 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Relatives in Panama confirmed today that Salvadoran leftist political leaders Guillermo Ungo and Hector Oqueli have been granted refuge at the Venezuelan Embassy, while Ruben Zamora is at the Mexican Embassy. Ungo's wife Nora Lopez told ACAN-EFE that he had sought refuge at the Venezuelan Embassy as a measure of protection after hearing threats of "execution" made by unidentified persons over the government radio network.

Since the beginning of the guerrilla offensive on 11 November, the government controls, throughout most of the country, all information in a single radio network.

Nora Lopez added that the Mexican Embassy has also granted refuge to an unindentified reverend of the Lutheran Church and several members of the opposition National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS).

She added that until now she has not been able to contact her husband.

UNTS Threatens Strike Unless Bombing Stops

PA1411194389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1746 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—An opposition labor federation announced today that it will call a general strike if the Air Force continues to bomb neighborhoods in the Salvadoran capital and called for an initial closing down of work centers to compel the government to hold talks with the guerrillas.

Julio Cesar Portillo, leader of the National Union of Salvadoran Workers [UNTS], at the same time denied that the labor leaders had taken refuge in the Mexican Embassy, and affirmed that "we are working, trying to take care of the civilian population."

According to Portillo, the closedown could lead to a general strike in the next few days to "defend the workers and compel the government to negotiate a political solution to this war."

The leader of the UNTS, which the government claims is a front for the guerrillas, asked all the workers to stay home and said: "We demand that the government immediately halt all activities that are affecting the civilian population."

Portillo said that a general strike has not yet been called, but did not rule one out if "the repression and the indiscriminate bombing of the people" continue.

At a news conference, the labor leader said that "the Cristiani government does not have the situation under control. The crisis is deepening."

Portillo said that there are thousands of workers—especially in the neighborhoods in the northern and eastern part of the city where the fiercest clashes are taking place—who do not have food or medicine and who are living under dangerous conditions, in the midst of firefights.

According to the UNTS leader, in the next few hours labor and humanitarian organizations will set up "refugee centers" to assist the Salvadorans who are trapped in the combat areas.

The leader warned that stores and supermarkets might be sacked and said that the guerrilla offensive launched Saturday evening "is the largest ever since the war in El Salvador began."

Portillo said that "we workers have to see to it that a truly democratic government can come to power in El Salvador," but added that he has no information regarding a rumor spread today in San Salvador that the guerrillas or some political organizations had announced the formation of a provisional government.

The FMLN guerrillas, who are battling fiercely against government troops in densely populated areas of San Salvador as well as in towns in the interior, today announced that several areas in eight of El Salvador's 14 departments were "liberated territories."

Rebel Commander Criticizes Government Statements

PA1511005589 (Clandestine) Cadena Revolucionaria Nacional in Spanish to El Salvador
2326 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Interview with Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez by unidentified reporter; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] We have made contact with Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez. We are going to ask her a few questions. Commander, a short time ago we were listening to Central American radio stations because the fascist network has forced our comrades to tune to Central American radio stations that are reporting on the situation in our country. On Radio America, a Honduran radio station, a minister of the Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA] government in El Salvador—Mauricio Sandoval—has said that at this moment there is no room for dialogue because of the FMLN offensive. What do you think of this statement by this spokesman of the dying fascist government? Over, Comrade.

[Martinez] At this moment of much joy for the people and the fighters because of the big victories achieved in these past few days of fighting, I have been asked to comment on statements on the dialogue by Alfredo Cristiani spokesmen.

It is interesting to see how these gentlemen who are on the brink of defeat can speak with so much arrogance. It has been reported that a few hours ago this Mr Mauricio Sandoval said that the Caracas dialogue is out of context. I would tell him that it is he and his government who are out of context.

What is very clear at this moment is that the FMLN is an extraordinary military force and that it has the support, approval, and sympathy of the majority of Salvadorans, of the people the government claims to represent.

So, in saying at this point that we have complicated the political situation by launching this offensive, they are demonstrating that they are out of touch with reality, as always.

ARENA and La Tandona [members of the 1966 graduating class of the Captain Gerardo Barrios Military Academy] are being challenged right now by the Salvadoran people and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front's arms. To speak now about dialogues, about Mexico, Caracas, and San Jose, after we made generous proposals that were rejected because they believed that we were weak and that our surrender was just a matter of time, is not only ridiculous, it is something of the past.

So we tell Sandoval, La Tandona, Cristiani, and ARENA to put their feet on the ground; that the situation is serious for them; and that their political situation is complicated because the Salvadoran people have decided to have a democratic and pluralistic government and to achieve peace.

So to say now that Caracas is out of context is to say that one is not thinking straight.

Letona Decries Bush's Remarks on FMLN Offensive

PA1511005789 (Clandestine) Cadena Revolucionaria Nacional in Spanish to El Salvador 2349 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Interview with Mercedes del Carmen Letona, Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front commander, by unidentified reporter, date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] U.S. President George Bush hypocritically regretted today that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] has turned the region's peace agreements into a senseless bloodbath with the offensive it launched on 11 November. What can you say about this?

[Letona] I would say that President Bush's remarks are very cynical. He said that a political solution was being sought in Central America and with this action, we had broken with the political path and sought other options. I think the people who broke with the path are the United States. We must recall that while we were holding talks in San Jose, Costa Rica, and demanding the removal of La Tandona [name given to 1966 graduating class of Captain Gerardo Barrios Military Academy] and demanding justice against the death squads in order to find a political solution and participate in elections, the U.S. Government approved more aid for the fascist sectors, the very sectors that were in fact repressing the people and carrying out such dramatic and horrible actions as the one perpetrated against the FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation] building. These actions continue and have been repeated every day in El Salvador.

Therefore, the first ones to bury the political possibility were the United States. The first ones to give weapons to the fascists to continue killing people were the United States. The Salvadoran people cannot wait for the fascists to kill them all. That is no way to attain peace, much less democracy, in El Salvador. That is what the United States did. Right now when we are involved in an offensive, who are the ones guilty of genocide against the people? The United States. Those bombs and those rockets that are falling on civilians are bombs and rockets provided by the U.S. administration to the Salvadoran Army.

The ones who have blocked the possibility of peace and negotiation in El Salvador are the United States. We wanted to remove La Tandona and the government's death squads through political means, but that was impossible. So, we are doing it through the combat of our forces and with the cooperation of all the people.

Rebel Leader on Support From Abroad, Goals

PA1511011589 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2322 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Managua, 14 Nov (DPA)—A leader of the insurrectional movement in El Salvador today said in Managua that the military campaign that the Salvadoran guerrillas have launched against Army troops on various fronts aims to create the appropriate conditions for a "genuine dialogue" with guarantees for the people.

Commander Mario Lopez, member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front's (FMLN) Political Commission, said that the rebels have orders to "advance" and control the "freed zones" as part of its struggle against the Army of Alfredo Cristiani's "fascist government, which is maintaining a socially unjust regime.

Lopez, who is also known as "Commander Venancio Salvatierra," said that the Salvadoran Air Force has used more than 15 aircraft to bomb civilians in Soyapango, on the outskirts of San Salvador, and neighborhoods in San Miguel, causing serious structural damage and killing civilians.

The Salvadoran guerrilla leader pointed out that the FMLN military campaign, which began with nationwide attacks on 11 November, has enjoyed "popular support" which makes it "an insurrection whose scope is difficult to gauge."

He added that this reaction means that the FMLN "cannot allow blows against the people to take place with impunity."

"We are seeking a change in the correlation of forces that would bring about appropriate conditions for a genuine dialogue," Mario Lopez pointed out. He added that the government of Alfredo Cristiani must "quit hoping for a military victory over the FMLN."

As for efforts to bring about a dialogue between the guerrillas and the Salvadoran Government, Lopez said that efforts are being made by various governments to prevent the genocidal actions of the Salvadoran Army. He said that the FMLN is making efforts at the United Nations and OAS where Nicaragua has proposed a resumption of negotiations.

He added that for the time being, the Salvadoran guerrillas are organizing "popular governments" in the "freed zones," however, he said nothing about the etablishment of a provisional FMLN government.

Lopez said that an intervention by the Guatemalan Army in the Salvadoran conflict, by supporting the Cristiani army, "would be dangerous for Central America because the conflict could spread." He recalled that Guatemala is facing a guerrilla struggle older than the one in El Salvador.

Lopez denied that the Salvadoran guerrillas exist because of the USSR, Cuba, and Nicaragua and added that the Salvadoran guerrilla struggle is older than the Sandinist Government itself (1979). He added that the FMLN has developed its own strategies and even its own weapons, however, he admitted that it receives weapons from abroad. He provided no futher details on the FMLN's "own" weapons.

FMLN Invites Press To Tour 'Liberated' Areas

PA1511023289 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0116 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Alfredo Cristiani and the defense minister have spoken to the media. To the surprise of foreign journalists, Cristiani and the military people said that no territory has been liberated in El Salvador and that no territory is under the control of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN].

Fine. Radio Venceremos is hereby inviting the media to visit Perquin. Radio Venceremos invites the foreign media to visit Radio Venceremos' installations and the explosives workshops in Perquin. The international media has visited Perquin hundreds of times. THE WASHINGTON TIMES, THE WASHINGTON POST, THE NEW YORK TIMES, and national and foreign television people have been in Perquin filming Radio Venceremos' activities here near Perquin square. Films and pictures showing this have been seen around the world and are known also in San Salvador. Our people have seen Radio Venceremos' installations functioning, etc.

We invite the foreign media to come to Perquin, to go to Chalatenango, to San Agustin Tres Calles, and to the regions that today were declared liberated territories by our General Command through an announcement to the nation.

We invite the foreign media, and we invite you, brotherly Honduran journalists from Radio America and Voz de Honduras to come. You will be able to come to Perquin without facing any obstacles. We invite you to witness a Radio Venceremos activity or visit the explosives workshop or the other installations that the FMLN has in Morazan.

We also invite you to witness a new graduation of special forces in this department of Morazan.

Defense Minister Rafael Humberto Larios has said that no tanks have been destroyed. We have said that approximately 20 armored vehicles have been destroyed and foreign television networks throughout the world are broadcasting films showing light tanks destroyed by the FMLN, so we are not going to waste time commenting on stupid remarks by the defense minister. By the way, Mr Minister, you only have 45 minutes left. Attention High Command, attention Defense Minister, you only have 45 minutes left to dislodge the FMLN forces in San Salvador as you said you would. You only have 44 minutes.

Mr Defense Minister and Colonel Ponce of the staff: You only have 43 minutes to dislodge the FMLN. The countdown on the 72-hour deadline by the High Command and the defense minister to finish off the so-called FMLN redoubts is on. Defense personnel of the Army staff already tried to eliminate these redoubts this afternoon in Zona Rosa, San Salvador. Mr Minister, you are running out of time.

FMLN Accuses Government of Harassing Newsmen

PA1511034089 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0244 GMT 15 Nov 89

["Press Bulletin;" date and place not given]

[Text] The Salvadoran Government, headed by Colonel Rene Emilio Ponce, [chairman of the Joints Chiefs of Staff] and La Tandona [name given to 1966 graduating class of Captain Gerardo Barrios Military Academy], unleashed a persistent campaign of harassment and persecution against the news media in an endeavor to disinform about the country's situation. The national network is an attempt to hide the truth that in the past several days the government has been unable to stop the FMLN's [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] expansion into zones in San Salvador and capital cities of several departments.

This action reveals the fascist nature of the regime. In addition, with the cooperation of the U.S. Embassy, video reports sent via satellite from El Salvador are being blocked by jamming. It has been reported that Army units opened fire at properly identified press vehicles. In San Salvador, the National Guard has searched news agencies and seized news material. Moreover, there are reports on arrest warrants for local newsmen accused of publishing reports without the authorization of the regime's censors. The FMLN condemns the persecution against the news media and censorship of the media. It also calls on its fighters to respect the newsmen's emblems and to provide all the necessary cooperation so that these news professionals in all zones under FMLN control can conduct their work. We must do our utmost to avoid situations in which the newsmen become victims of the crossfire with the Army.

Guatemala

Foreign Minister Says No Plans for USSR Ties

PA1311182289 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Commenting on a recent visit to Guatemala by a group of Soviet parliamentarians, Foreign Minister Ariel Rivera Irias reiterated yesterday that there are no plans to establish diplomatic relations with the USSR in the immediate or near future.

Minister Rivera recalled that the Soviet deputies who came to Guatemala were invited by Guatemalan parliamentarians, particularly by members of the Legislative Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee.

Minister Rivera said that in the international and diplomatic field it is advisable to establish relations and contacts with various countries. However, in the specific case of the USSR, he noted that the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations with that country has not been considered.

President Cerezo Comments on Kidnapped Nun Case

PA1211022189 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 10 Nov 89, p 2

[Text] President Vinicio Cerezo commented on 9 November on the nun who was kidnapped, beaten, and later released. The president said that because of the way in which she left the country, without giving any information, there could be doubts as to whether the incident really happened.

Cerezo said that the nun gave no information to the authorities about what happened to her; therefore, there are no clues to investigate.

Even the U.S. Embassy officials in our country could not get any information about the incident, the president added.

Cerezo also said now that she is back in her country, the authorities hope that she will feel more confident and provide information which could help solve the case.

In conclusion, Cerezo said the incident cannot be described as a human rights violation because it was done by groups out of the government's control.

Lieutenant Col Discharged for Obstructing Justice

PA1011033989 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 1 Nov 89 p 5

[Text] The Guatemalan Army reports that in the chapter entitled "Orders of the National Defense Ministry" found in the Institutions' General Order for Officers, No. 15-89, dated 31 October, it is reported that Infantry Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Francisco Moran Carranza was discharged from the Guatemalan Army.

As stated Lt Col Moran Carranza, identification number 109991, has been discharged from the Guatemalan Army. He is also discharged from the Guatemala Army Central Garrison's Mobile Cadres, military position number 743732. This was done based on a resolution and recommendation by an honor board that heard his case and ruled that he had committed actions which were detrimental to the prestige and honor of the Guatemalan Army. Although he committed these actions while holding a public administration job, he was still on the Army payroll. Therefore, based on the constitution, the Guatemalan Army charter, the guidelines of the honor boards, and a resolution and recommendation by the military corps who heard his case, it has been determined that this top officer failed to maintain professional and military ethics. He defended the actions of a civilian who was involved in criminal activities and was being tried in the appropriate court. The officer, by doing so, prevented justice from being carried out.

Rebel Leader Summarizes Human Rights Situation

PA1211021289 Havana International Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Nov 89

[Interview with Pablo Monsanto, member of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity General Command, by Gloria Carmona; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Carmona] Commander, we would like you to summarize the human rights situation in Guatemala.

[Monsanto] The current human rights situation in Guatemala can be summarized by a statement issued by the UN rapporteur and sent to our country. He said that in Guatemala there are people who fear every night that they will not live until the next morning. Murders, massacres, and repression have increased because some groups are afraid of the people's movement and the democratic movement's development. The Army is spreading terror in the rural areas by attempting to halt the progress of the revolutionary movement.

[Carmona] Who is primarily affected by this repression and who is directly responsible for it?

[Monsanto] The university students have been primarily affected in the recent days. The Army is responsible for the slaughter and crimes, and it has resumed a repressive escalation in the university area. The university in Guatemala City has always been the mouthpiece of the democratic groups and has always promoted the people's struggles. The university has always strongly supported the Guatemalan people's struggles.

Repression has also occurred against trade union leaders, the groups fighting for the respect of human rights in Guatemala, and all those who want to be able to participate broadly in various organizations such as the National Dialogue to find a solution to the problems the country has been experiencing for years.

[Carmona] What is the goal of this new wave of repression in Guatemala?

[Monsanto] This repression seeks to destroy the people's movement and eliminate its leadership. Once the student and labor leader leaders are physically eliminated, the Army will then try to disband the people's movement which in recent months has reached a very high level of organization and unity.

Honduras

No Disarming in Contra Camps Before Elections

PA1411200789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1836 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 14 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—Honduran President Jose Azcona and a spokesman for the Honduran Army today joined in stating that the contras living in camps in Honduras will not be affected by the general disarmament operation launched this week in light of the upcoming 26 November elections.

The new official version contradicts a statement by Police Chief Colonel Lazaro Avila, who on Friday announced that the anti-Sandinists would be disarmed as part of a plan aimed at guaranteeing there will be no violence during the general elections in Honduras.

Approximately 12,000 armed contras have settled along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border since 1981.

Azcona said that the disarmament operation "will not include the contras who remain inside the camps. The disarmament order will only apply to those persons who go around armed in the interior of the country."

The president said that he agrees that the contra problem should be solved, but warned that "this is not a Honduran problem exclusively."

Meanwhile, Armed Forces spokesman Colonel Manuel Enrique Suarez insisted that "there are no plans to include the rebels in the preventive disarmament operation."

The officer said that the chief of police released "inaccurate" information and excused him on the grounds that the reporters had pressured him with questions during a military ceremony.

"That information has caused problems for Honduras because it was picked up by the Nicaraguan, Cuban, and Soviet press and it is not the truth," Col Suarez said.

The spokesman stressed that "no policeman or soldier will enter a contra camp to disarm the contras." Suarez said that this activity "is removed from the electoral process and is within the context of the regional peacemaking process."

Honduras is known as the main "sanctuary" of the anti-Sandinists whose demobilization deadline was scheduled for 5 December during the last Central American presidential summit held in August.

Leader Condemns U.S. Law on CIA, FBI

PA1411235989 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 8 Nov 89 p 9

[Text] Tegucigalpa— Legislative Assembly President Carlos Montoya has said that the law approved by the U.S. Congress authorizing U.S. intelligence police to promote coup d'etats and murder political leaders anywhere in the world is "arbitrary and contrary to international law."

The U.S. Congress recently approved that law, which Montoya feels should be condemned by mankind because it surpasses the traditional intervention of the economic blocs. "I believe that giving excessive power to a state's public organization to decide on the life or death of a person is stretching the limits of understanding. I would assume that this will be protested and rejected by the United Nations," Montoya added.

According to the law, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the CIA, which are the U.S. police intelligence organs, can provoke coups d'etat and kill leaders in any country in the world.

"That regulation is against international law and is a disgrace to mankind. Such an outrage should not be tolerated and it calls for an international debate and condemnation," Montoya stressed.

Nicaragua

D'Escoto Presents Draft Resolution to OAS

PA1411162289 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1210 GMT 14 Nov 89

["Draft resolution to stop the Salvadoran conflict and seek a diplomatic solution to the Salvadoran situation at the 29th annual OAS meeting held on 13 November 1989" introduced by Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto and "read for Radio Sandino from the Nicaraguan Embassy in Washington"; recorded]

[Text] Whereas the situation of the Salvadoran people is marked by the increasing armed struggle and flagrant violations of human rights and man's fundamental liberties, the enormous human suffering caused by this situation has resulted in the loss of numerous civilian lives because of indiscriminate repression of the noncombatant population. According to Article 2, Paragraph A of the OAS Charter, amended by the Cartagena Protocol, one of the organization's main purposes is to strengthen peace and security in the continent. Solidarity among American states [words indistinct] makes it an urgent matter that the organization devotes special and considerable efforts to help achieve a negotiated political solution of the Salvadoran conflict and to end the bloodshed. Therefore:

1. We urgently call on the Salvadoran regime to immediately stop the bombings of the civilian population and the acts of repression such as those at San Salvador University. 2. We make an appeal so that the hostilities can be stopped immediately, the wounded can be evacuated, and the civilian population can be supplied with staples in full security. 3. We appeal to the sides in conflict that negotiations be immediately initiated through the United Nations and the OAS, leading to a cease-fire under conditions that ensure full respect for all

human rights. 4. We urge making the necessary arrangements so the UN Observers for Central America [ONUCA], created by the UN Security Council on 7 November 1989, can go to El Salvador immediately to a) make sure there is no foreign interference in the Salvadoran conflict, which could prevent the implementation of the Salvadoran people's right to full and unrestricted self-determination; b) enforce the principles of international law regarding humanitarianism, particularly Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions signed in 1949, which deal with (?expenditures) due to war, protection of civilians, and [words indistinct].

5. We ask the OAS secretary general to utilize all available indirect and direct means, according to Article 115 of the amended Charter, to obtain current and objective information on the Salvadoran situation and to keep all OAS member states posted on this.

Ortega Speaks at Chichigalpa Rally 11 Nov

PA1511035489 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 12 Nov 89 p 5

[Report on President Daniel Ortega's campaign rally in Chichigalpa, Nicaragua, on 11 November]

[Text] At times it seemed as if Daniel was swimming in a sea of people. Seconds after he arrived at the entrance to the city of Chichigalpa, he was surrounded by thousands of residents. The strains of the popular song "The Fighting Cock with Blades on his Spurs" filled the air, signaling the beginning of the celebration of two events: the visit by the winning candidate, and his birthday.

The voice over the megaphone pleaded with the people to stay on the sides of the road to allow the retinue to pass and to give Daniel the opportunity to greet the delegations from neighboring municipalities and villages, but the plea fell on deaf ears. The crowd surged about Daniel all the way to the 26 May Plaza which had been decked out for the day's main event.

Residents who saw the multitudes march or walk past their homes were heard to make remarks such as "Where did all these people come from?," "This is what gets the rightists' goat," and "The Somozists are goners."

At the plaza after the long walk Daniel was practically pulled off the grandstand by the hearty handshakes of those who managed to get close enough to greet him.

Daniel thanked the crowd for the show of affection and delivered a speech that was frequently interrupted by the chanting of slogans. The speech soon turned into a dialogue as Daniel answered questions from the crowd regarding war and peace. The first topic was peace and the choice between seeking an end to the fighting and seeking an end to war. The president said: "We managed to get the contras to sit with us in New York, and today (11 November) Honduras gave us some heartening news," referring to Honduras' decision to begin disarming the contras tomorrow to safeguard the general elections on 26 November.

Following this good news, however, Daniel referred to the contras' murder of Chichigalpa youth Rodolfo Perez Rodriguez.

The president said: "That is the other side of the coin; the war they are forcing upon us." Daniel also referred to a letter that the ultrarightist National Opposition Union [UNO] sent to Somozist Colonel Enrique Bermudez urging the contras to reject disarmament. The letter was published by the Honduran newspaper TIEMPO. Daniel said that this was just an attempt to exert pressure, "because they know that they are going to lose the elections in February."

Daniel asked: "So who is it that does not want peace?" The crowd immediately roared: "The Somozist guards, the contras, the political opportunists who are in the UNO," and the gringo government. "There you are," said Daniel, "they are the ones who do not want peace. And here we have a people who do want peace and are struggling for it."

Daniel said: "Bush has concocted a tamale: the UNO tamale, which is a mixture of parties and which has bad meat." This tamale can cause indigestion, he added, and consequently invited Bush to be the first to try it.

President Ortega described Guillermo Chamorro—a Chichigalpa producer who is a Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] candidate for municipal councilman—as a model patriot, saying: "He is not an FSLN militant, but he is assuming a responsible position that favors the Nicaraguan people. There are thousands more Nicaraguans like Chamorro who prefer to give their vote to the FSLN, and that is why victory will be ours."

Daniel assured the people of Chichigalpa that a large portion of the profits of the San Antonio Sugar Mill and liquor factory will be used to finance many projects that will improve their living standards. The president added: "I am giving you facts, not words; the other party is the one that makes promises that are blown away by the wind because not even the Yankees can solve our problems."

Having touched on the subject, Daniel referred to the Costa Ricans' "civic celebration" [reference to the hemispheric summit meeting held in San Jose on 27 and 28 October]. "All of the presidents who attended talked about their problems, which are more serious than ours, but they do not have to face a war of aggression. This occurs because the big countries exploit the little ones, especially those in Latin America. I told Bush that he has to respect us. He was forced to listen to me, and the Yankees do not like that. They prefer to have the little countries kneel before them." To this, the crowd cried out: "Never, never!"

Daniel said that Bush told the other presidents that the U.S. deficit and foreign debt are the largest in the world and that consequently he could not help them. If the United States cannot help its friends resolve their problems, then the UNO should not come here with the story that it is going to solve Nicaragua's economic problems with the Yankees' assistance.

"The only party that can do this is the FSLN," he said, "because it has a program that is coming along quite well. After we have achieved total peace, and on 25 February we will all see how the situation will begin to change, and at a rapid pace."

Daniel said that after this Nicaragua will become the most developed country, with the best social and economic conditions, not only in Central America, but in all of Latin America. "While they are rapidly rolling downhill," the president said, "we are emerging from the difficult situation that the war had plunged us into."

Accompanied by mariachi and other bands, the crowd then sang Las Mananitas and Happy Birthday, while flags and banners twirled merrily aloft and the bells of the town's church pealed in the background.

At the event, President Ortega awarded the Order of Miguel Ramirez Goyena to Msgr Victor Manuel Soto, who has dedicated at least 25 years of his life to aiding several generations of Nicaraguans. The prelate delivered a brief speech calling for peace: peace for this fatherland that is still suffering.

The president also handed out home ownership papers to 689 families, plus another 20 to workers of the San Antonio Sugar Mill whose homes are currently under construction.

At least 8 teachers were awarded the Teachers of the People Medal, for having served in this capacity for at least 25 years. Among them were Blanca Rojas, Julia Martinez, and Ana Maria Meza Perez, who received their medals from President Ortega himself.

The rally concluded some time after 1300, but even after the event was over the people followed Daniel around the streets of the town, in a festive atmosphere dotted with the shouting of slogans, the bursting of firecrackers, and the music of mariachis and other small bands.

GDR Grants $50 Million for Industry Development

PA1111184789 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1640 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] Managua, 11 Nov (ACAN-EFE)—The GDR has agreed to continue its aid to Nicaragua, offered since the revolution triumphed in 1979, and announced that it will grant $50 million to develop Nicaraguan industry, it was reported today in Managua by an official source.

Dieter Albrecht, deputy chairman of the State Planning Commission, and Nicaraguan Foreign Cooperation Minister Henry Ruiz signed the agreement on 10 November in Managua, thus allowing Nicaragua to reactivate its industry.

The GDR Government is, after the Soviet Union, the country which has offered the most economic aid to Nicaragua since the victory of the revolution on 19 July 1979.

Albrecht and Ruiz reviewed, during the 3 days that the ninth session of the mixed Nicaraguan-GDR commission lasted, the aid—approximately $70 million—which the GDR has given the Sandinists in 1989.

The GDR is also one of the socialist bloc countries which supplies 90,000 metric tons of oil to Nicaragua; and it has financed road and highway repair projects.

Official on Arab Support for Government

PA1111164089 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 31 Oct 89 p 4

[Unattributed article: "Arab Support Recognizes Nicaraguan Economic Effort"]

[Text] Alejandro Martinez Cuenca, minister of the Secretariat of Planning and Budget, has said Arab countries' backing for the Nicaraguan economic adjustment program will give greater stability to government efforts to improve salaries, although the control on spending, the allocation of credits, and the reduction of currency issuance must continue just as strongly as in the past.

"The trust of the people has shown the economic program must now turn into a greater awareness to defend the gains made in the area of monetary control and in promoting production," the minister said.

He said it it was a big mistake to try to deny gains in the fight against inflation and to turn the matter into a political issue since, regardless of who wins the elections, that person will have to continue the same efforts that have proven to be the sole alternative in the monetary crisis.

Martinez Cuenca mentioned support from Arab countries as recognition by international financial organizations like the IMF, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the World Bank of the positive results achieved in controlling inflation.

He added this effort also causes greater monetary stability in Central America and deserves even greater respect because it had been implemented without foreign backing up until the recent actions conducted by the president.

On another matter, the minister said the search for areas of Arab economic cooperation and future investments arose due to an initiative of the governments of those nations during the visit by President Daniel Ortega.

Martinez Cuenca added that those nations find it easy to understand the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] nationalist cause because in their not too distant past these countries had to face the problems of independence and rupture with colonialism.

"That is the reason why the frank and respectful manner in which our delegation was treated was equally expressed in the discussions on the economy and the possibility of opening a serious dialogue between the Arab and Latin American communities, he said. [quoation marks as published]

The minister explained that those nations are concerned over Israeli penetration in Central America and the way in which the United States has been encouraging Israel to block the aspirations for freedom of the Palestinian people, whose cause Nicaragua has constantly supported.

The amir of Kuwait is interested in finding a solution to the topic of the foreign debt of Latin America and the Third World, and feels that unless this crisis is solved there cannot be peace and economic development in the continent, Martinez Cuenca noted.

In addition, the official said Ortega is the first Latin American president to make an official visit to Persian Gulf countries, not counting the participation of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez in OPEC meetings.

"They have had great pressure from the United States, he recalled, since on the same day President Ortega signed agreements with the amir of Kuwait, that head of state received a call from U.S. President Bush to discuss the state of relations between both countries."

Moreover, he felt "these pressures are counterproductive for U.S. interests, and yet they reinforce Nicaragua's belief that the U.S. Government has not given up its policy of hampering and scorning our peace efforts."

35 UNO Candidates for Deputy Seats Withdraw

PA1011194189 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] Rosa Maria Zelaya, secretary of the Supreme Electoral Council [CSE], has reported that 35 candidates for deputy and alternate seats of the rightist UNO [Nicaraguan Opposition Union] and five other parties have withdrawn from the elections.

The links between the rightist coalition and the Somozist contras and political opportunists [zancudos] have thus far led to the withdrawal of nine of its candidates, most of whom are from the PPSC [Popular Social Christian Party], which recently left the coalition.

The Social Christian Party and the Revolutionary Workers Party also have nine desertions, Zelaya said. She added that many of the resignations have already been reported to the respective organizations in order for them to fill the vacant slots but that the CSE is analyzing the situation because at this moment ballots with the names of candidates are being prepared.

New Political Quarterly To Be Published

PA1111194689 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Nov 89 p 3

[Text] An interesting publication specializing in political issues and bearing the name INFORME POLITICO [POLITICAL REPORT] is ready to hit the stands on 7 November.

Since we believe this publication will undoubtedly be very useful for all persons and institutions interested in keeping up with political events, which are constantly changing, we have contacted Research for Development (IDES) [Investigaciones para el Desarrollo], the center in charge of the new publication, to get more information.

The editorial staff of INFORME POLITICO is composed of the following professionals: Alejandro Gutierrez, a lawyer and well-known political analyst, who will be the chief editor; Maria Hurtado de Vigil, a sociologist; Rodolfo Delgado and Jacinto Mena, economists, whom we interviewed and with whom we held a brief conversation.

LA PRENSA: What made you publish INFORME POLITICO?

IDES: We believe the political information available in Nicaragua, especially during this period prior to the elections, is very extensive, varied, and dispersed. INFORME POLITICO evaluates and summarizes the information and makes it available. INFORME POLITICO will contribute to the political knowledge of its subscribers.

LA PRENSA: What is the outlook for INFORME POLITICO?

IDES: INFORME POLITICO is a specialized publication that does not favor any party. It is intended for all those interested in keeping a record and making a brief analysis of the main political events covered by the national and international media every day.

LA PRENSA: What will be the contents of INFORME POLITICO?

IDES: In addition to what we have already mentioned, INFORME POLITICO will include information on political parties, labor unions, institutions, and important political figures in the country.

Likewise, we will include exclusive interviews with people playing a leading role in national events and with political analysts.

The publication will summarize the major current events and it will also provide reference information and relevant socioeconomic statistics.

LA PRENSA: How can people subscribe to INFORME POLITICO?

IDES: There will be a quarterly subscription to INFORME POLITICO. You must visit our offices located two blocks from Victoria Brewery on the 1st floor of the Zambrana building. You may also call our telephone number 27088.

LA PRENSA: What else can you tell us about INFORME POLITICO?

IDES: INFORME POLITICO is evidently the first and the only publication of this nature and it will fill a gap. INFORME POLITICO will be a serious publication and very useful. The editorial staff and the rest of the collaborators will guarantee these results.

EPS Reports Fighting on 3, 6, 7 November

PA1511034289 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 10 Nov 89 p 2

[Text] EPS [Sandinist People's Army] troops fighting counterrevolutionary groups scattered in several regions of the country killed nine contras who were conducting terrorist actions against civilians. A recap of the EPS fighting indicates that on 3 November, soldiers clashed with mercenary groups in the area known as Kisilaya which is located west of Waspan in the Northern Atlantic Autonomus Region. As a result of the clash, seven contras were killed and four were wounded.

On 6 November, the contras ambushed EPS troops in the area known as Yolaina Creek which is located southeast of New Guinea in the Southern Atlantic Autonomous Region; one soldier was wounded. In another clash reported on 7 November in Kisilala Creek northeast of Presillitas, one enemy was killed and two rifles [words indistinct] and some equipment were seized. Fighting was also reported that day in the EL Corozo Mountain which is located east of Villa Revolucion, Chontales Department. Two EPS soldiers were killed and two were wounded. The mercenaries sustained one casualty. The names of the EPS soldiers who have fallen in combat are: Lieutenant Daniel Roberto Martinez Navarro and Ernesto Martinez Barrera.

On 7 November, fighting took place in El Cachete Mountain which is located north of Quilali, Region 1. Two soldiers were injured. In Region 6 in Zacatera which is located southwest of Wiwili, a group of mercenaries kidnapped two civilians, as well as a peasant identified as Carlos Antonio Chavarria. In Pantasma, located northeast of La Libertad, Region 5, the contras stole six horses.

EPS Soldier Reported Killed, 2 Wounded in Attack

PA1511031089 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Nov 89 p 2

[Text] On 10 November, a group of mercenaries attacked EPS [Sandinist People's Army] troops in the place known as Cano La Calentura which is located southeast of La Pinuela in the southern Atlantic region. According to a report released by the Defense Ministry's Public Relations Directorate on 12 November, an EPS soldier was killed and two were wounded.

Alfredo Cesar Sends Letter to Enrique Bermudez

PA1511020189 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Nov 89 p 14

[Text] Managua, 7 November 1989

Enrique Bermudez Varela

General Commander of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN]

The latest events that have entailed the resumption of warlike activities by the Sandinist regime have directly affected the civic actions we have been promoting primarily in the areas where the regime is now carrying out large military deployment.

The political council has discussed the need for defining a more belligerent line of action that will allow us to repudiate the actions of the regime.

This led us to agree that the commission entrusted with the agreements signed at Guatemala and Tela should request a new joint meeting between you and [illegible] that we can discuss in a more frank manner the alternatives for the RN fighters who are in the Nicaraguan mountains. It is our obligation to obtain the opinions of the many fighters and leaders, based on what we have agreed to in our search for freedom for our suffering homeland by combining civic actions with military actions.

The joint meeting should be held once procedures for it are established, bearing in mind that a public statement and the agreements at the forthcoming UN meeting are pending. To this end, we deem it advisable to recommend that these agreements should not be separated from previous commitments made by the regime in the dialogue; the regime, so far, has not taken any steps to indicate their goodwill. It can be recalled that we are the ones who should certify matters of verification at this time, and the justice of your cause is ours also. We must understand that it is necessary that no demobilization agreements of any kind be reached at the New York meeting, inasmuch as the presence of the RN armed fighters is necessary throughout the electoral campaign.

After consultations, it is my opinion that we cannot accept demobilization and much less fall into the trap that the regime has set up, trying to manipulate the CIA. At any rate, the negotiations should be prolonged to a new meeting. Besides, the demobilization has made the Sandinist government make mistakes, and it is necessary for this to to remain a topic of negotiations in the future.

If you have to sign a commitment, bear in mind the time factor, as things here have become somewhat complicated. Now, in a very suspicious manner, Eli [not further identified] has once again spoken up, trying to break up the line we have been maintaining. I think it is advisable that you warn Eli based on what was discussed during the Guatemala meeting. Otherwise, we cannot continue to use him, and at any rate, I would prefer to pull him out.

It is important that you think about the time factor. Remember that the campaign is short, and the way things are moving, and in spite of the problems with that man that I told you about, I think that we will obtain good results.

Alfredo Cesar A.

Cesar Denies Sending Letter

PA1511023589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0126 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Managua, 13 Nov (ACAN - EFE)—Former "contra" leader Alfredo Cesar today denied that he sent a letter to anti-Sandinist military chief Enrique Bermudez in which he requested that Bermudez not agree on anything regarding the demobilization of the rebels in Honduras at the New York talks.

The negotiations between the Nicaraguan Government and a "contra" delegation, held at the OAS headquarters on 9, 10 November concluded without any agreements. However, the talks were resumed today at the OAS headquarters in Washington.

The opposition daily LA PRENSA today reported that Cesar, secretary general of the Social Democratic Action Party (PSD), issued a communique denying the existence of the letter.

Managua newspapers BARRICADA and EL NUEVO DIARIO today published a report by the Honduran daily TIEMPO, which published the text of the letter Cesar "addressed" to Bermudez on 7 November.

"It is necessary not to reach any kind of agreements regarding the demobilization at the New York meeting because the presence of the Nicaraguan Resistance armed combatants is essential during the electoral campaign," says the text of the letter allegedly signed by Cesar.

The former "contra" leader, who joined the Nicaraguan electoral process since June, maintained that the publication of the alleged letter "is part of the campaign the Sandinist government is waging to justify its recent decision to resume the war."

Cesar reiterated his position of returning to Nicaragua to join civilian life in the country and to search for a political solution to the Nicaraguan conflict to "bury war forever."

Panama

Foreign Minister Comments on Baker's OAS Speech

PA1411200189 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1655 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Panamanian Foreign Minister Leonardo Kam today described U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's attempt to appear as a dove at the OAS an act of cynicism, because behind his words lie a harsh and pitiless aggression against Panama. Foreign Minister Kam responded to Baker's speech in a firm manner, saying that we are a worthy nation that has placed conditions on the normalization of relations with the United States: End the aggression, hands off of Panama, and allow the Panamanians to solve their own problems. We are not willing to make any type of transaction while the U.S. aggression against Panama continues, Foreign Minister Kam said in an impromptu response. The fascist way is to repeat a lie over and over again, to repeat it a thousand times until it becomes the truth, Kam said. Everyone knows that Panama is the victim of a pitiless aggression that includes coercive economic measures, the illegal withholding of Panamanian funds in U.S. banks, an embargo of Panamanian assets in the United States, and the illegal retention of the Panamanian Embassy in this city, Kam added. The U.S. military presence in Panama has increased in a disproportionate manner in an attempt to intimidate and militarily provoke my country, Kam said. Everyone here knows how far the U.S. intervention in Panamanian domestic affairs has gone.

In response to the U.S. willingness to normalize relations with a democratic Panama, Foreign Minister Kam said, we have repeatedly said that we will hold elections—free, honest, and effective elections—as soon as the aggression, which has prevented the Panamanian people from voting freely, has ended.

Regarding Foreign Minister Kam's participation at the OAS, Deputy Minister Abelardo Carles told the National Information System the following:

[Carles] "The 13 November OAS meeting can be described as a heated one. During the meeting, Foreign Minister Kam had to be firm in his response to Mr Baker, the U.S. representative. Foreign Minister Kam told Baker that even though he tried to appear as a dove of peace everyone knows that behind all the words there is an aggression, an aggressive behavior against Panama, and that this cannot be disregarded by a forum like the OAS. Minister Kam said that instead of meddling in the domestic affairs of the member states, the OAS must discuss and solve issues like this one."

Regarding the agenda that the Panamanian delegation will present at the meeting, the deputy foreign minister said:

[Carles] "The agenda is something that must be approved by consensus. The agenda is approved by the assembly. Our delegation has gone to the OAS with more than an agenda. Our delegation will assume an aggressive and not a defensive attitude. From the very beginning, our delegation will ask and demand that the OAS discuss the issue of the U.S. aggression against the Republic of Panama. In other words, we are not going to limit ourselves, nor are we going to accept discussing Panama's domestic affairs if the OAS will not discuss the issue it should be discussing, which is the aggression of a foreign power against a member state."

Regarding the new style of aggression by the U.S. troops, the acting foreign minister said:

[Carles] "We do not really know what the new style of U.S. aggression is; however, whether they come with music or bullets, we are going to fight back." Acting Foreign Minister Carles also talked about actions that the Foreign Ministry and its diplomatic corps will carry out:

[Carles] "Our next step is to call a meeting, similar to the one we held with our ambassadors in Latin America, in Europe. We must also work with them to reactivate our relations with the EEC. As you know, the EEC has also cooled relations with our government as a result of the Panamanian situation.

Last week, following the meeting with the Panamanian ambassadors in Latin America, we sent political delegations to almost all of the Latin American countries to support the work of our ambassadors. Most of the delegations have already met with the foreign ministers of the Latin American countries to talk about the Panamanian problem and try to influence the attitude of the Latin American governments during the OAS meeting that began yesterday."

U.S. Warships' Canal Transit Criticized

PA1511044289 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2032 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] The Panamanian people have noticed an unusual and increasing number of U.S. warships passing through the Panama Canal during the last 24 hours. This movement of war equipment, similar to that during the Vietnam war, has kept the Panamanian community in a state of uncertainty. Given the lack of official information from the U.S. military authorities, both in the United States and in Panama, no one knows for certain the destination of these U.S. warships or the reason for their passage through our canal.

The deployment of U.S. naval weaponry is clearly a violation to the Torrijos-Carter treaties because it is carried out without justification, and it includes four warships and one submarine to date. The warships have been identified as the USS Briscoe, the USS Richard Byrd, the USS Jesse L. Brown (FF 10-89), and the USS Manitowoc (LST 1180)—all equipped with deadly arsenals, sophisticated war equipment, and missile launchers.

Nevertheless, it has been learned that there are several other ships anchored off the Pacific entrance of the canal. The violationary passage of warships through the Panama Canal has resulted in much speculation among those who are experienced in this type of situation and can be summarized as follows: Either it is part of the strategy of the U.S. Government, which is preparing new aggressions against Panama; or it is caused by the increase of the armed conflict in Central America.

The truth is that after the aggression against Panama began, the United States increased both its personnel and war equipment in the isthmus beyond what is specified in the Torrijos-Carter treaties—as proved by the contingent of 12,000 armed soldiers and F-15 airplanes brought to Panama and posted along the Panama Canal to intimidate the Panamanian population. The national community, which is aware of the U.S. Army's prevailing threat of invasion against our country, views with concern and uncertainty this new act of intimidation and arrogance and demands that the first world power respect our rights, self-determination and sovereignty.

The United States and Panama have signed a neutrality treaty on the use of the international waterway, and the use of Panamanian territory by U.S. troops to sponsor armed actions in Central America would violate this neutrality treaty.

TV Says Panamanians Not Linked to Bomb Threats

PA1511021589 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2312 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Strict security measures have been adopted by the U.S. occupation troops at the entrances to their military bases in our country after a bomb-threat alert was issued last night at the bases. The U.S. Army's Channel 8 television has broadcast information continuously to the civilian and military population about the increased security measures at the bases due to the bomb threat.

Televisora Nacional reporters were sent out and can confirm the strict controls on the admission of civilian and military personnel, who are carefully checked. The Rodman Naval Base gate has been closed and unauthorized personnel, whether civilian or military, are not allowed to enter.

Even though the U.S. Army South has given no details on the bomb threats, everyone knows about the fear prevailing at the State Department because of the terrorist threats issued by Islamic groups in response to the downing of airplanes and arrests of their leaders and by Colombian drug traffickers who have issued death threats, even against President George Bush, for the extradition of their leaders to the United States.

It is clear that no Panamanian group, either civilian or military, has threatened the U.S. people or soldiers in our country, despite their constant acts of intimidation and insults against our sovereignty. We must stress that no act of sabotage, terrorism, or kidnapping against U.S. military installations, citizens, or the Panama Canal has been carried out at any time in Panama's history. Therefore, we must advise the national and international community that any attack on U.S. citizens in our country will not involve Panamanians; and that those who have been threatening them are citizens of other nations who have been the victims of their war actions.

Panama does not advocate violence.

New Democratic Movement To Oppose Government

PA1411215989 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 14 Nov 89 p A-4

[From the "Names and Events" column]

[Text] Jose Cordoba Quinones is the Panamanian who has risen in San Jose, Costa Rica as the director of a movement that opposes the Panamanian Government, but is not part of ADOC [Civic Democratic Opposition Alliance]. The movement is called "Panamanian National Democratic Liberation Front" [Frente Democratico Panameno de Liberacion Nacional], (FREDEPALINA). Cordoba Quinones told international newsmen that his movement is not a rebel one and that "it hopes to introduce a democratic government in Panama but not with Union Club [exclusive private club whose membership includes wealthy Panamanians] presidents." FREDEPALINA is not very well known in Panama.

Editorial on Respect for U.S., Other Flags

PA1011011489 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 8 Nov 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Let Us Respect the Flags and the People"]

[Text] On 4 November, when we solemnly commemorated Flag Day in our country, we stated without the slightest hesitation that the flag represents our people's most sacred symbol. We emphasized on that occasion that we must worship, honor, and respect the flag. On 9 January 1964, U.S. Army forces stationed in the Canal Zone of Panama had the audacity to destroy the Panamanian flag carried by National Institute students. Our people, because they rejected this action and because of their anger, reacted in the most violent and patriotic way. Those acts of violence resulted in the death of more than 20 Panamanian youths. The emblem of a nation deserves absolute respect in any territory and at any moment. It is the pure and sacred symbol of a nation and never the exclusive symbol of a government.

Consequently, we want to call our national authorities attention to the unpleasant and unfortunate incidents that occurred with the U.S. flag at La Villa de los Santos on 3 November. The flags of all the nations on the American continent are traditionally carried during the 3, 4, and 10 November Independence Day parades. The parade was held with all the American flags, including the U.S. flag. Certain officials publicly destroyed the U.S. flag and criticized the presence of the Venezuelan and Costa Rican flags during the ceremony. We think it is a shameful action that will have no positive effects on our children or people. Those nations' flags do not represent exclusively their respective governments or the decisions adopted its leaders. A flag is a sacred symbol for its people and does not represent the actions adopted by its government leaders against Panama.

The actions of a government do not always represent the will of the people. Continental solidarity will not occur by tearing up other countries' flags. The justness of our cause should be presented in a different manner, never with violence or by defacing the emblems of other nations. The political, social, and economic crisis we are currently withstanding demands a more cautious, balanced, and wiser attitude from each and every one of the Panamanian people. We cannot resort to exaggerating or provocations. This historical moment might wind up being only the result of circumstances. Therefore, the attitudes which we are criticizing might prove detrimental and negative in the struggle for our nationalism and our position.

Nothing would please the Panamanians more than to know that their national emblem is not being defaced or destroyed in any country of the world. We cannot blame the people of the United States or any other country for the anti-Panamanian attitude that their respective government has assumed. No one can say that the aggression being waged against us by the U.S. Government represents the will of the people of the United States. Therefore, we cannot offend their symbols or territorial integrity. Our authorities' position should be firm, patriotic, dignified, and mature. It must never be exaggerated or absurd.

Human Rights Official on Imprisoned Soldiers

PA1111015189 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 0300 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Dr Osvaldo Velasquez, president of the Panamanian Human Rights Committee [CPPDH], has charged that the human rights of the military personnel arrested for participating in the 3 October coup attempt against General Manuel Antonio Noriega are being violated. He reported that they are being tortured and are being held incommunicado.

[Velasquez] "The CPPDH continues to actively work so that human rights will be respected. Human rights violations have increased after the failed coup against Gen Noriega. We are especially concerned about the number of prisoners, most of whom are military. It has been observed that their human rights are being greatly ignored. Because the CPPDH is concerned about the human rights of all individuals, regardless of their political ideology, occupation, race, religion, and so forth, we are greatly concerned about the fate of those men. We hope we can exert enough influence so they will be treated within due process of law. We have reliable information that they have been tortured. We do not know for certain the exact number of military men who have been arrested. We can only make estimates on the basis of quite reliable but unconfirmed information and testimonies. We have issued appeals through the press so that the relatives of those under arrest will come to the CPPDH to report the arrest and we can take legal actions to try to achieve their release."

Velasquez said the CPPDH has received information about the cruel and inhuman treatment that the men who participated in the coup attempt against Noriega are receiving.

[Velasquez] "We have reliable information and accounts by some individuals about the cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment of those men. They are held incommunicado, and they have no access to lawyers, priests, doctors, or CPPDH members."

Velasquez insisted that they have received reports indicating that the number of imprisoned military men is higher than the number officially reported by the dictatorial regime. He also said the Noriega regime did not give permission to the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission to visit Panama on 6 November.

[Velasquez] "They had asked the Panamanian Government for permission to visit Panama on 6-9 November, but it was not granted. The government then suggested that the commission visit after 20 November. There has been no definite confirmation of this visit. We have been informed that if the government gives its permission, the commission will visit Panama on 21 or 22 November. I personally doubt that the government will permit the arrival of the commission. This will depend on the report that the commission will be presenting to the OAS meeting on the human rights abuses in Panama."

Referring to the Inter-American Human Rights Commission's visit to Panama some months ago to undertake an on-site investigation of human rights, Velasquez said the results have been very beneficial. He added that the OAS commission has issued two communiques which vigorously criticize human rights violations in Panama. Velasquez said that the final report of the commission's investigations will be issued at the OAS general assembly on 20 November.

[Velasquez] "It has been quite strong in condemning the human rights abuses, especially the civilian and political abuses. Prior to the elections, the commission charged that just a minimum number of liberties necessary for a democratic electoral process existed. The final detailed report takes time because of the bureaucratic steps that it must go through in the OAS. However, we hope that the report will be released on the 10th and be presented for the final approval of the OAS. On that day we will be able to learn the commission's opinion on the human rights situation in Panama."

Giroldi's Widow Criticizes Noriega, Drug Trade

PA1011133489 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 0329 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Interview with Adela Bonilla de Giroldi, widow of Major Moises Giroldi, head of foiled 3 October military uprising, by Adolfo Ruiz; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] This time the interview deals with drug trafficking and the announcement by General Manuel Antonio Noriega that he was going to reduce his salary as a sign of selflessness and patriotism so that other officers and public employees may follow suit. In the conversation Mrs Giroldi was asked if Noriega could reduce his salary as an act of goodwill. Here is her reply.

[Giroldi] Why does he not hand out the $800 million he has as a result of drug trafficking activities to help the country? Why does he not use it? His salary is a pittance for him; it is good for buying ice cream for his grandson. Why does he not use his $800 million from drug trafficking to improve the country? That would be a way for him to show he wants to help the country. Why does he not do it?

[Ruiz] Can we expand on the drug trafficking, since you were close to your husband and he to Noriega? What other details can you give regarding Noriega's dealings with the Colombian cartels and what assistance does he give the drug traffickers so that drugs reach the United States and other parts of the world?

[Giroldi] He uses the Panamanian Air Force airplanes and his position as commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] and chief of the country to move drugs in and out. He is harboring those people who are fleeing, Pablo Escobar Gaviria and his gang at the Bocas de Toro Province area, at an FDP site; I cannot recall the name right now. It is where the panajungla [jungle survival] courses are taught; he is hiding that group of drug traffickers there. Noriega is having troubles. Why? Because he is vying for the cartel with another person-....[changes thought] He is up to his neck in that trade.

As as result of that activity, he has mansions in Europe. But none of that does him any good. What is the point of having so many millions and not being able to enjoy them? He cannot even leave the country. What good is it?

[Ruiz] What will your mission be, Mrs Giroldi? What will you do from now on? Will you join the group responsible promoting your message, or will you promote it in a more personal way? Are you acting on your own behalf, or are you organizing a group that will continue to push for the dictator's fall?

[Giroldi] I am now acting on my own behalf. I feel compelled to do this because I know my husband did not finish his work because he believed that the remaining general staff officers could still be saved and that something could be done for them. He trusted that they were going to support him at the last moment just as he trusted other officers, but it did not work out that way. Unbelievable as it may sound, the general staff is as corrupt as Noriega. They want to leave their posts without leaving a trail. They are so cowardly that they had the opportunity to do something against Noriega, but he scared them. Noriega's shadow frightens them.

That is why I always mention the troops because I know the troops are courageous and determined. Sooner or later they will decide who their commander will be. None of them, none of those colonels has the charisma to lead right now. They had the chance on 3 October but panicked. Do you think any of them can lead? I have greater trust in the decisionmaking capabilities of a sergeant that in any of the FDP officers'.

[Ruiz] You appeared on a television interview watched by many Panamanians. In that interview you mentioned that if any soldier decides to kill the dictator and his followers, the Panamanian Army will be free of corruption. What did you mean by that?

[Giroldi] From the moment any soldier, sergeant, corporal, or whoever kills this man, the rest will know whom they have to eliminate or oust. The FDP soldiers are not naive. They know perfectly well who the corrupt officers are. In that same way they must clean up the FDP. Either they clean it up, or they will never amount to anything. They have to act now. They have to decide who their commander will be and why. They also have to decide what they want from that commander It is up to them. This is their opportunity to decide their own future as well as their children's, family's and country's future.

[Ruiz] What message do you have for the wives of the officers, the NCOs and the enlisted men?

[Giroldi] When I was in Panama I noticed that many of the wives of the officers were very reserved. They were always worried because their co-workers did not like them. People have always disliked us. They looked down on us as if we were stained by what Noriega and his officers did. The same happened to the enlisted men's wives. They even thought twice before saying they were married to a member of the FDP. I know how they feel. They feel left out because even if they tried not to feel this way, they still did. The people judged us by what Noriega did. The people judged us all alike.

I ask that the FDP wives talk to their husbands. I know that the Panamanian woman is very determined and daring. Although I have lost my husband, that does not mean that I have broken down completely. No, sir. Like Torrijos used to say, I have picked up the flag and gone on ahead.

I know that soon more might die. Our husbands will die, but at least we will leave a better country and a future for our children. The widows can rest assured that once this man falls, and I get back to Panama, we will do everything possible to unite and recover what was owed to our husbands and our children. I know that the widows of the enlisted men are not working. Here I am worried about how they are eating if all doors are closed to them. When I get back to Panama—and I know that day is not too far off—I will take up the fight for the future of these widows and their children.

I ask these women to talk to their husbands, to motivate them, and make them see things as they really are. We cannot continue like this, bequeathing an uncertain future to our children. As long as this man continues in power, there will be an uncertain future for the women who have and even those who do not have husbands.

[Ruiz] You were, we might say, economically well off. You were close to the dictator. You were receiving some benefits. Now you have lost everything. Do you regret having lost those benefits?

[Giroldi] No. Because the only benefit I had was my husband's salary as major. He had his salary and travelling expenses. I had my salary, which did not amount to much, deposited in a bank. No, I have not lost anything that I regret or that worries me. On the contrary, the main thing I have lost in all this is my husband.

He is the greatest thing I have lost. The loss of my salary is nothing. Those are material things. You can always start over again and replace these things. However, I know that after this I cannot go to my husband's grave and tell him to get up because everything is over now.

This cannot happen. I did not receive any benefits by being close to Noriega. My husband was an honest man. He could have obtained many benefits. He could have even joined Noriega in the drug trafficking. However, he was a humble man. Anyone who knew us and saw where we lived could tell that we were living like any other middle-classs family.

I do not regret anything. I am proud of what my husband did. He lost his life, but he did not die in vain. We will soon see that the sacrifice he and the other officers and troops made was not in vain. I only want to continue with this struggle if you will give me the opportunity. [end recording]

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Egypt

PA0911151789 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1645 GMT 31 Oct 89

[Text] The governments of the Republic of Panama and the Arab Republic of Egypt signed on 28 October a basic agreement for economic and technical cooperation between the two countries. The agreement was signed by His Excellency Phillip Feigenblatt Rojas, Panamanian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Egypt, and Dr Maurice Makramallah, Egyptian minister of state for international cooperation.

The agreement states that wishing to effectively use the two countries' economic and technical potentials, and recognizing the usefulness of stable cooperation, the signatory countries—Panama and Egypt—are willing to develop and strengthen an economic and technical cooperation based on their current friendly relations. The two countries have therefore agreed to avail themselves of the possibilities for cooperation in the commerce, agriculture, farming industries, fishing, transportation, maritime, communications, tourism, and any other sector in which the signatory countries decide that their mutual goals will be achieved through cooperation.

Assembly Meeting Defined as Call for Independance

PA1211020289 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2327 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Statement by Carlos Duque Jaen, president of the Democratic Revolutionary Party; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] The National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives has defined functions as well as administrative and judiciary functions which do not at all invalidate the creation of the Legislative Commission made up of 41 members. I would say that the General State Council held on 9 November is a historical event for Panama, inasmuch as it was precisely in Los Santos where 168 years ago on 10 November people such as Segundo De Villareal and Rufina Alfaro held a town meeting and called for independence, and that is what we are celebrating now.

For us, the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives means we are again taking up the Torrijist method, the people's power, and the consolidation and reaffirmation of our democracy. This democracy should be an example for many countries in the world who today have diplomas of democracy issued by the United States. Truly, the people's power is a representative power in a people's mentality. It conforms and represents the political geography of the country.

Banking Official Reports 'Stable' System

PA1011011689 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] Mario de Diego, executive secretary of the National Banking Commission, said today that deposits and the behavior of the Panamanian banking system are stable, and therefore there is no reason why the system cannot recover its dynamic status.

[Begin De Diego recording] Once this is achieved, the stability we now enjoy will very soon turn into growth, which is the only thing that will make it possible for the banks to resume granting loans. That is why we recently said that the most important thing is not for the individual who has money to invest it on his own, out of his pocket. We must all contribute with our savings so that the banking system—which has traditionally granted loans in this country—will once again be able to grant loans, based on our own savings. That is the only way in which we will be able to reinitiate a recovery, regardless of all the political aspects.

There is evidence to the fact that part of the monies that had been taken out of the country are being brought back to Panama, because the banks are obviously requiring this in order to grant loans, which are in fact being granted. Those who took monies out of the country must deposit them in Panama again, so that they will serve to grant loans.

Under these conditions it is evident that money is returning, to the point that the amount of deposits available in time deposits and savings accounts now exceeds $260 million. All deposits that are available now, either in time deposits or savings accounts, are new deposits that have been made since the banking system was reopened. [end recording]

Improvement Noted in Free Zone Transactions

PA1011012389 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Interview with Veyra Remon, manager of the Colon Free Zone, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Remon] As we reported in the newspapers, we closed the month of September with transactions in the amount of 473.3 million balboas, an amount that surpassed sales in 1988 by 103 million balboas. Two months ago, we signed a contract with an enterprise called Centro Textiles Free Zone, Incorporated. On 31 October, we signed another contract with (Marcesa) Free Zone, Incorporated, that will operate out of the (Cofrisa) building, which is a Japanese consortium.

[Reporter] How is the Paso Canoa Free Zone affecting the economic outlook of the Colon Free Zone?

[Remon] I do not believe it is affecting anything, because Paso Canoa is not in operation yet.

[Reporter] What has the economic activity of the Colon Free Zone been like during the first 11 months of 1989?

[Remon] We have had magnificent results. I just gave you the figures showing that with the month of September the 1988 figures have been surpassed.

[Reporter] What measures have been taken to control contraband?

[Remon] Contraband is handled directly by the Ministry of Finance and Treasury. However, I do not believe there is any contraband.

[Reporter] The Panamanian merchants charge that retail sales are being made in the Colon Free Zone. What do you have to say about that?

[Remon] Retail sales are prohibited inside the Colon Free Zone area. That has always been the case.

Drastic Registration Drop at National University

PA1011024289 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 8 Nov 89 p 10

[Article by Cristobal Martinez R.—all figures as published]

[Text] Miguel Candanedo, secretary general of the University of Panama, has reported that over 20,000 students have not registered for the second semester. Candanedo pointed out that this greatly worsens the university's economy, as it will be deprived of 873,560 balboas.

In fact, Dr Candanedo said that out of the 38,000 students that normally register for the second semester, only some 8,000 students have registered to date.

The scanty registration will make it very difficult to start the academic activities on 13 November, when the second semester is to begin. Dr Candanedo explained that the university officials are very concerned over the drop in student registration.

"This is indicative of the grave economic situation of the country, and, on the other hand, we are worried that the students will wait for the last day to complete their registration," Candanedo added.

To this effect, the Administrative Council of the University of Panama has given the students many ways of completing their registration, just as it has done in other semesters. The students must complete registration by 24 November, either having fully paid or having made payment arrangements. Those who make such arrangements have until 19 January to complete payments.

Dr Candanedo said that if the students do not sign up for registration they will disrupt the academic development of the semester, because extending registration days delays the academic activities. In addition, the funds obtained from registration are used for the operation of the university. If the students do not develop an awareness of this and support the university, the campus of Mendez Pereira [nickname for the University of Panama] will be very seriously affected.

Dr Candanedo said that the University of Panama should obtain 1 million balboas in registration monies for one semester. At present, only 126,439 balboas have been received.

Nation Reported Second in Ship Registration

PA1011012889 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Statement by Alexis Arias, acting director of General Consular and Ships Directorate, on 3 November; place not given—recorded]

[Text] According to the official reports issued by Lloyds of London, Panama continues to rank second in the world as a nation registering ships under its flag. However, we would have to wait for the Lloyds reports in late November to see how we compare with Liberia. We hope to rank first, at least that is our goal.

This is the result of very serious efforts made by the General Consular and Ships Directorate here at home as well as by our consular corps throughout the world, in spite of the many acts of aggression against our country. We are making these efforts in order to contribute to the National Treasury.

Argentina

Cavallo Attends Financial Symposium in Japan

PY1411133289 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0204 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Nov (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo stated today that Japanese investment in Latin America is desirable not only for promoting growth in Latin America but in the world economy as well." [quotation marks as received] He added that "no country or region can grow unless the world economy is also growing."

Cavallo made these remarks during a lecture at the fourth symposium on financial and business cooperation in Latin America, being held in the Japanese city of Nagoya. The main subject of discussion was "the next stage of the debt problem in Latin America."

According to the Argentine Foreign Ministry, Cavallo urged officials and industrial, commercial, and financial leaders to "invest in Latin America, because this continent has the best conditions for [words indistinct] to make the world economy grow, thus contributing to a solution to the social, political, and economic problems the area is experiencing."

The foreign minister pointed out "the many things Latin America can do for the world and Japan" and recalled that in the 1970's "the Group of Seven carried out a price and exchange stabilization policy."

"Savings are essential for investment," the foreign minister said. He added: "Japan and Europe over the past few years have had a high level of savings, but, to reduce the imbalance in today's world trade, Latin America needs to increase its imports." [as received]

This symposium was organized by the Japanese Eximbank and the Inter-American Development Bank. Also invited to the meeting were the presidents of these two banks, Takashi Tanaka and Enrique Iglesias, respectively.

During his first day of activities in the Far East, the Argentine foreign minister held important working meetings with Tanaka, Iglesias, Mexican Budget Secretary Pedro Aspe, and Brazilian Finance Minister Mailson Ferreira da Nobrega, among others.

Defense Ministry Production Secretary Designated

PY1411190489 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1500 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Summary] Buenos Aires, 14 Nov (NA)—It has been officially reported that Ricardo Luder, the current Defense Ministry production under secretary, has been designated production secretary. He replaces Miguel Cuccietti, who resigned for personal reasons.

Defense Minister Italo Luder will say goodbye to Cuccietti tomorrow. Ricardo Luder will probably be installed on Thursday.

1.7 Million Tons of Wheat Sold To Brazil

PY1411203089 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1131 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Summary] Buenos Aires, 14 Nov (TELAM)—Argentina has sold 1.7 million tons of bread wheat to Brazil within the framework of the integration treaties signed between the two countries. The National Grain Board has reported that a 560,000-ton consignment will be shipped to Brazil between December 1989 and February 1990.

Bolivia

State of Siege Declared Throughout Country

PY1511123089 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Early this morning, the government decreed a state of siege throughout the country to end the social crisis and to protect the internal order, which has been disrupted over the past few hours. This report is included in a government decree approved by President Paz Zamora.

According to Interior Ministry Under Secretary Raul Loayza, police arrested 500 teachers and education leaders in the nine departmental capitals, thus thwarting the extended hunger strike.

The strike by teachers, who have been demanding a bonus of 300 bolivianos, has unleashed violent street confrontations over the past few days and at least four bombings.

The government, which has been besieged by a wave of social demands and has been pressured by the 80,000 teachers, has stated that these demonstrations are undermining democratic stability. It added that, despite efforts to find a path to peaceful coexistence and dialogue, it has not been possible to prevent radical groups interested in union leadership from publicly challenging the government.

The government decree states that it will guarantee the 3 December municipal elections and protect the citizens' right to vote.

A few minutes before the release of this decree to the press, police patrols raided the centers where the hunger strikes were taking place. Police used excessive force in these raids.

The 250 strikers arrested in La Paz were taken in trucks and buses of the police, the Air Force, and other state institutions, to the El Elto Air Base.

The government reported that 250 strikers were also arrested in the interior of the country. It added that those responsible for the strike will be sent to different regions of the country. Other, less responsible groups of strikers will be tried by the regular courts. Others will be released.

The three La Paz teachers' leaders have been sent to different hospitals in La Paz and placed in intensive care. They are Miguel Lora, Telmo Roman, and Luis

Alvarez, who are not facing any risk of death, the Interior Ministry Under Secretary stated. He warned that Bolivian Labor Confederation underground sessions will be illegal, and that they are not appropriate for labor organizations, he said.

This is the first social crisis President Paz Zamora has had to face since he assumed power almost 100 days ago. [passage omitted]

Teacher, Interior Minister Comment on 'Clashes'

PY1411111589 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 2330 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Police have reportedly arrested some 20 students during a demonstration in downtown La Paz this afternoon. A more detailed report is given by Professor Gonzalo Suruco, a member of the La Paz Urban Teachers Federation.

[Begin Suruco recording] The bloody repression that the police and government unleashed on teachers and neighborhood committees, that had taken to the streets to defend the education system and to protect people's rights, has resulted in a series of dramatic incidents. We have just received reports that 20 students are being detained at the fire department, a provincial secretary was wounded in the hand, and a retired teacher coming to our offices was wounded in the leg and taken to a hospital. We will continue to report on casualties. Judging by the display of police power in the San Francisco area, there will probably be many. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco gave a news conference that ended just a few minutes ago. In this conference he said that, according to the reports on his desk, the police have not arrested any students. Capobianco added that the (Troskolorism) in La Paz, headed by teacher Vilma Plata, is responsible for the continuing incidents that are preventing negotiations from ending the hunger strike by teachers in the Arts School.

[Begin Capobianco recording] We still have reports of sporadic clashes between police and the extremists who participated in a demonstration organized by the La Paz Urban Teachers Federation. The demonstration took place as urban and rural teacher confederation leaders and Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] Executive Board members were meeting with the labor minister and other members of the executive branch to try to resolve the situation. On behalf of the national government I want to denounce the old and new (Troskolorism) and the leftover small groups of extremists who support them. I want to denounce them for responding to government demonstrations of goodwill and dialogue with violence.

We showed our desire to work for a solution last night when we stayed until early morning to work on the issue. We have sought formulas to solve the problem. We talked with the COB representatives for 5 hours last night, almost reaching an agreement. We have devised new and imaginative formulas to overcome the problem. However, these elements in La Paz, who are headed by Vilma Plata and who do not understand our democratic times, are acting as if they were facing a dictatorship. I want to alert the public to this situation and warn them that our police forces are fulfilling their duties when they respond to the direct attacks by these small groups of extremists, who answer to the old and new (Troskolorism). [end recording]

The interior minister said that the extremists burned a vehicle and attacked police with Molotov cocktails near San Francisco Square and San Andres University. Capobianco added that the extremists tried to take a police officer hostage, but failed. The minister said that police will repel and control all these disorders, also noting that the government has not contemplated declaring a state of siege because we are only 20 days away from the 3 December elections.

Passport Agreement Signed With Argentina, Peru

PY1511012189 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 3 Nov 89 p 1

[Excerpt] Bolivia, Argentina, and Peru have signed an agreement that is part of the "Libertadores Interoceanic Corridor" project, by which citizens from the three countries will be able to travel to and from each country without any special permission. The agreement will go into effect in December.

Citizens from the three countries will only need an identity card to cross their respective borders.

Peru's Ambassador to La Paz Oscar Maurtua de Romana said the "Agreement Facilitating the Transit of People between Argentina, Bolivia, and Peru" was signed during the fourth meeting of the "Libertadores Interoceanic Corridor" Tripartite Permanent Commission that met in Arequipa, Peru, on 4 and 5 October 1989. [passage omitted]

Argentina in Arrears on Gas Bill Payments

PY1411235289 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 8 Nov 89 p 4

[Excerpts] Although the Argentine Government has paid $5 million on the July gas bill, $14 million is still owed on this same bill, Finance Minister David Blanco reported.

"We expect that in the next few days the $14 million will be paid," the minister added.

During the latest negotiations carried out by Presidents Jaime Paz Zamora and Carlos Menem, the two governments agreed to mutually cancel their bilateral debts to begin a new phase in their trade relations. [passage omitted]

Bolivian National Treasury authorities expressed their concern over the fact that Argentina is behind in its payments. Although Argentina has complied with the payments for August and September, it did so a month behind schedule.

According to the National Treasury authorities, complete gas payments will be used to pay off the national foreign debt to multilateral organizations, thereby guaranteeing the disbursement of new foreign credits.

Belgium Approves $20 Million in Economic Aid

PY1511000289 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 5 Nov 89 p 7

[Excerpt] The Belgian Government has approved "financial support," equal to $20 million over the next 3 years, for a fund that will use the money to carry out several projects in Bolivia.

This was announced yesterday by Andre Geens, Belgian minister for cooperation and development, during the closing ceremony of the first meeting of the Bolivian-Belgian committee. For the past week, this committee has been evaluating some development projects that are being carried out in Bolivia's altiplano, valley, and lowland regions. The cooperation agreement includes a $5-million grant for the Bolivian balance of payments. This is "a very important" gesture, Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde said.

Although Bolivia owes $100 million to Belgium, its fifth largest creditor, Belgium has granted Bolivia liberal repayment terms. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Sarney Addresses Nation on Election Eve

PY1511002889 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2151 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Brazilian men and women: I am here to talk to you about the elections and freedom. Tomorrow, 15 November, after 29 years, 83 million voters will elect the president of the Republic in direct elections. We are proud to say that we are currently the third largest democracy in the world.

My government has attained great institutional achievements. Parties ceased being clandestine; we got rid of ideological prejudices; all sectors of society are represented. We have 22 candidates. I summoned a National Constituent Assembly; I authorized the legal registration of labor unions; I gave union leaders freedom; the amnesty was accomplished. I permitted workers to participate in the decision processes, so they are no longer only spectators of the political process. The business sector is no longer suspicious that the government is at at the service of political candidates or of other sectors. They are free from power. No one feels threatened or afraid of retaliation. Nobody doubts that his vote will be valid, because it will count, it will decide.

In 1985, we held elections for mayors in capital cities and municipalities of national security zones. In 1986, we held elections for deputies, senators, and governors. In 1987, the country lived in an atmosphere of claims for rights and of excitement over the National Constituent Assembly. In 1988, we held elections for mayors and council members in all Brazilian municipalities. In 1989, we will hold elections for president of the Republic. We held elections every year, and all of them were held in an atmosphere of great peace and freedom.

The country has never felt such an atmosphere of freedom. This is an extraordinary event we are witnessing. Differing opinions are expressed at home, at work, and in the streets, and no one is afraid of anything, because people know there is democracy—a flourishing democracy. [passage omitted]

As observed by all, the political campaigns were carried out in peace. I guaranteed freedoms and national peace. There have been no incidents, institutional threats, or complaints of government interference. [passage omitted]

We are all obliged to meditate—and I invite everyone to do so—on the meaning of these achievements and on how we attained them. I must say on my behalf that I am happy and that I feel internal peace at seeing Brazil at this moment. With a calm conscience, I am pleased to know that I worked for this day, with a vision of history. I have had patience, tolerance, and humility. I struggled, made an effort, and suffered. Not only have I preached democracy, but I also practiced democracy by setting an example. But what we are all really interested in is Brazil, this country that will tomorrow experience the great party of a restored democracy. It is the third democracy of the world. [passage omitted]

Nothing has been able to make the president of the Republic stray from the path he set. At a moment when we are witnessing deep changes in the world, where walls built by ideologies and sectarian interests are being torn down, Brazil offers the alternative of not raising walls to hatred, resentment, and division. May the elections be an instrument of national unity, since, once tomorrow is over, all of us will share a common destiny. The democratic transition is over. God bless Brazil. Good evening, and thank you.

Results of Two Pre-Election Polls Released

PY1511133589 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 14 Nov 89

[All numbers as heard]

[Excerpts] On the day before the elections, the polls indicate the following:

DATAFOLHA—Brazilian Communist Party (PCB) candidate Roberto Freire is in the eighth position, with 2 percent of the voters intending to vote for him; Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party (PMDB) candidate

Ulysses Guimaraes and Liberal Party (PL) candidate Afif Domingos are in the sixth position with 5 percent; Social Democratic Party (PDS) candidate Paulo Maluf is in the fifth position with 9 percent; Brazilian Social Democratic Party (PSDB) candidate Mario Covas is in the fourth position with 11 percent; Democratic Workers' Party (PDT) candidate Leonel Brizola is in the third position with 14 percent; Workers' Party (PT) candidate Luis Ignacio Lula da Silva is in the second position with 15 percent; and National Reconstruction Party (PRN) candidate Fernando Collor de Mello is in the first position with 26 percent.

IBOPE—PCB candidate Roberto Freire and Liberal Front Party (PFL) candidate Aureliano Chaves are seventh with 1 percent; PMDB candidate Ulysses Guimaraes and PL candidate Afif Domingos are sixth with 4 percent; PDS candidate Paulo Maluf is fifth with 9 percent; PSDB candidate Mario Covas is fourth with 10 percent; PT candidate Luis Ignacio Lula da Silva is third with 14 percent; PDT candidate Leonel Brizola is second with 16 percent; and PRN candidate Fernando Collor de Mello is first with 30 percent.

The other candidates have 1 percent of intended vote. The blank votes amount to 3 percent, and the number of people who still have not made up their minds totals 7 percent.

The IBOPE poll was conducted on 12, 13, and 14 November; 3,650 people in 260 counties were interviewed. This poll shows the profile of the Brazilian voters on the basis of data furnished by the Superior Electoral Court in accordance with information obtained this year, and on basis of the last national home research conducted by the IBGE [Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics]. [passage omitted]

The IBOPE polls included rural voters, 16- and 17-year-olds, and illiterate people who registered to vote in these elections.

Bilateral Agreement on Nuclear Products Signed

PY1411161889 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0336 GMT 11 Nov 89

[Text] Brasilia, 10 Nov (EFE)—Brazil and Argentina have concluded negotiations on an accord under which 32 items produced by their respective nuclear industries will be tax-exempt, the Brazilian Foreign Ministry told EFE today.

The negotiations, which took place during the second meeting of the standing Brazilian-Argentine committee for nuclear policy, began on 6 November. The list of tax-exempt products includes incandescent lamps, air compressors, and laboratory equipment that can be used in the Atucha II (Argentina) and Angra II (Brazil) plants. The list, however, is not final because it will be analyzed by businessmen and official agencies of the two countries, who may introduce changes.

During a visit to Brazil by Argentine President Carlos Menem in August, the presidents of the two countries signed an annex to "Protocol 17" on nuclear cooperation, negotiations for which began under Raul Alfonsin. The annex establishes that the exchange of tax-exempt nuclear equipment between the two countries may reach $15 million annually.

"Protocol 17" and five other agreements were signed by Brazilian President Jose Sarney and by then Argentine President Raul Alfonsin when the latter visited Brazil in October [words indistinct]. The cooperative process for promoting bilateral economic integration began in 1985 after a meeting between Sarney and Alfonsin in Foz de Iguazu.

The current Argentine Government has attached particular importance to the integration process. President Menem's first official visit to Brazil reflected this political will to continue the process.

Both Brazil and Argentina have been under pressure because they are the only Latin American countries that have not signed the nuclear nonproliferation treaty. Considering their technological development, this attitude has caused suspicions that they might produce nuclear weapons. Brazil and Argentina have repeatedly stated that their nuclear development is for peaceful purposes.

Chile

FPMR Overrides Channel 13 Audio With Message

PY1411212089 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 5 Nov 89 p C-8

[Text] At least three times yesterday, the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] interfered with the transmission of Catholic University's Channel 13 in Santiago to broadcast a subversive proclamation calling for an armed struggle.

The first interference was clearly heard in the high Santiago neighborhoods around 1633 during a show by the musical group "Los Jaivas" in the program "Giant Saturdays."

A woman's voice interfered with a song to read a message of the armed branch of the Communist Party "in commemoration of the anniversary" of Salvador Allende's ascension to power.

The message said that the FPMR "will not abandon its armed struggle until a democratic, popular, and revolutionary government is installed."

Fragments of the proclamations were broadcast again at 2021 and 2041. At these times the proclamation interfered with the "TV 13" [Teletrece] news program. The FPMR warned that "our arms will stay alert."

The message ended with the "until final victory" and "we will win" slogans of the government of Popular Unity, while the national anthem was heard in the background.

Rocket Attack on Army Physical Education School

PY1411204489 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Just before dawn today, extremists who are believed to be members of the FPMR [Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front] fired a LAW rocket at the students and single personnel dormitory of the Army Physical Education School in the Reina neighborhood. The explosion and subsequent fire caused considerable damage, but no one has been reported injured.

The incident was announced at a press conference by the school director, Lieutenant Colonel Francisco Leonel Riveros Lagres, who said that the attack could have had deplorable consequences since the dormitory is used by a large number of students. Last night only six people slept there because, fortunately, the students were out on an assignment. He said that the damage to the building is assessed at 7 million pesos. He noted that this attack is similar to the one launched some time ago against the Army Aviation Command at the Tobalaba airport.

Two Students Arrested, Allegedly FPMR Members

PY1411192689 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Two students, who are believed to be members of the FPMR [Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front], were arrested yesterday by Carabineros officers for illegally carrying arms and explosives. The students have been identified as Jose Miguel Martinez Alvarado 19, a biology student at the University of Chile, and Rodrigo Fernando Rojas Brito, 23, a sociology student at a private institute.

According to the Carabineros report, the students were arrested on the corner of Libertador O'Higgins Avenue and Irene Moral Street after one of them suspiciously threw a backpack under a bus. The backpack was found to contain explosives, a quantity of .22-caliber shells, a .22-caliber revolver, and a FPMR flag.

The students were carrying 7.65-mm pistols and ammunition.

New National Television Council Members Named

President Designated

PY1411185489 Santiago Television National de Chile Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Summary] Former Labor Minister Alfonso Marques de la Plata has been designated president of the National Television Council.

Two Members Elected

PY1411181889 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Former Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle and former Justice Ministry Undersecretary Alicia Cantarero have been elected, as members, to the new National Television Council.

The two have been elected by the University Presidents Council, made up of more than 35 presidents of state and private universities, after the Comptroller's Office rejected the first two candidates proposed by that council.

This decision was reported by Education Minister Rene Solame after chairing the 1 1/2-hour meeting at the [name indistinct] library. The minister reported that the two members were proposed by the university authorities and approved unanimously.

Jaime del Valle and Alicia Cantarero will assume their posts immediately.

Colombia

M-19 Leader Defends Agreement With Government

PA1511031289 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] In Santo Domingo, Cauca Department, 19 April Movement [M-19] leader Carlos Pizarro has said that he hopes the political parties will fulfill their part of the agreements to demobilize his organization.

Pizarro, who has been negotiating an agreement with the government that will allow his subversive movement to become a political party, said that criticism from broad political sectors and some newspapers are acting against peace, not against the M-19.

[Begin Pizarro recording] I am waiting to see how the leaders of the political parties fulfill their commitments. There is a gentlemen's agreement between the government, the leader of the Liberal Party, and the M-19.

Former President Pastrana has supported this agreement.

We are wondering, based on what party leaders are saying, what the attitude of the various parliamentary sectors will be. [end recording]

Pizarro said that he will not give up the agreements reached; these agreements have caused an uproar because of the privileges the guerrillas have been granted regarding the number of votes they require to secure congressional seats.

[Begin Pizarro recording] There are congressmen who have been in politics for 40 years, and they get elected with only 10,000 votes.

The M-19 has benefits, but only to a certain extent. From that point on, our position is the same or worse than that of the majority of congressmen. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the political campaign being waged in Santo Domingo continues to motivate the people to support congressional candidates. An international organization will be receiving the arms that the guerrillas have used for the past 15 years.

EPL Guerrillas Clash With Junin Battalion

PA1411215289 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1230 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Cordoba—Troops of the 11th Brigade are maintaining total control in the Puerto Libertador Municipality following clashes with a subversive column of the self-styled Popular Liberation Army, EPL, which resulted in 18 guerrilla casualties and 1 soldier killed.

11th Brigade Commander, Colonel Ivan Ramirez Quintero, who is personally directing the actions in the area, said that the fighting began on 11 November when a guerrilla group ambushed a patrol of the Junin Battalion. A clash ensued in which five rebels were killed, among them Carlos Antonio Henao Garcia from San Pedro de Uraba, and Abelardo de Jesus Munoz de la Rosa.

The shootout, which lasted several hours, occurred near La Rica, Puerto Libertador Municipality.

Junin Battalion troops, supported by helicopter gunships, chased the rest of the guerrillas to the area of Tres Playitas, Juan Jose, where an EPL camp was detected. Another clash took place and 13 rebels and 1 soldier were killed.

According to the 11th Brigade commander, military actions continue in the area, where strict measures have been implemented.

It was also reported that a large amount of war materiel, field equipment, and other items were confiscated during the military operation.

Paraguay

'Squatters' Reportedly Attack Military Patrol

Official Report on Incident

PY1411180389 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 14 Nov 89 p 10

[Text] In a note released yesterday, the Presidential Information and Culture Undersecretariat made known the official report on incidents in Guayaybi. The text of the note reads as follows:

"With the sole purpose of avoiding the dissemination of distorted interpretations, we herewith report a regrettable event that took place last Sunday, 12 November, in the locality of Guayaybi (San Estanislao) between occupants of a private property and the forces of order that were sent to persuade the squatters to accept another site."

The peasants reacted violently and attacked the visitors with sharp and blunt weapons. The members of the military detachment tried to pacify the difficult situation without resorting to violence."

The report adds that, when "the peasants' reacted, Infantry Lieutenant Jose Felix Caceres was cut on both arms with machetes, and other soldiers received minor injuries."

"This is the first time that the peasants have reacted in this manner, so the occupied property was thoroughly checked. The forces of order found arms—including shotguns, rifles, and machetes—and literature with which they obviously arouse their desire for a piece of land."

Another surprising discovery was the supply of food and water in a basement, stored in anticipation of possible isolation for a considerable period of time."

"It is appropriate to mention that the Guayaybi squatters have repeatedly been asked to move to other similar sites within the same department. They have consistently rejected all proposals—in this case with this outburst of violence," the note ends.

President Urges Rapid Solution

PY1411234089 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 14 Nov 89 p 10

[Text] During an audience with the leaders of the country's four main political parties, President Andres Rodriguez yesterday expressed the government's concern over the first clash between forces of the order and landless peasants.

The following political party leaders attended the meeting in Government House: Juan Ramon Chavez, president of the Colorado Party; Domingo Laino, president of the PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party]; Euclides Acevedo, president of the PRF [Febrerista Revolutionary Party]; and Jorge Dario Cristaldo, president of the PDC [Christian Democratic Party]. Other government officials who attended the meeting were Division General Humberto Garcete, commander of the I Army Corps; Interior Minister General Orlando Machuca Vargas; Interior Under Secretary Hugo Estigarribia Elizeche; and Colonel Fernando Ugarte Ramirez, head of the National Coordinating Council for Rural Development [Consejo Nacional de Coordinacion para el Desarrollo Rural—CONCODER].

According to the political leaders, Gen Rodriguez referred to the violent incident that took place on the night of 12 November in Guayaybi (San Estanislao) between peasants who had occupied private property and the forces of order that arrived on the scene with orders to persuade the peasants to go elsewhere.

According to an official report, the peasants reacted violently to the proposal and attacked the forces of order with "blunt weapons" and machetes. The Undersecretariat of Information and Culture has reported that Infantry Lieutenant Jose Felix Caceres was wounded on both arms, and several other soldiers suffered minor injuries during the clash.

During the meeting in Government House, Gen Rodriguez asked the politicians to rapidly modify some laws, to find a feasible solution to the peasants' problems. As an example, Gen Rodriguez mentioned the agrarian statute which has yet to be approved by congress. The president also mentioned that several requests for the expropriation of land remain unattended to by congress, thus hindering a rapid solution to these conflicts.

President Rodriguez also suggested the possibility of creating a joint force made up of members of the police, Navy, and other forces, because the peasants do not respect the police forces.

Peru

Unofficial Regional Election Results Announced

PY1411122189 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Nov 89

[All numbers as heard]

[Text] As soon as the municipal elections were over, Radio Television Peruana reported the first unofficial results on the municipal elections and on the election of delegates to the assemblies representing the Grau, Ucayali, Amazonas, Arequipa, Tacna, Moquegua, and Puno regions. Our microwave service enabled us to be the first to report on the results of the elections in the countryside. Today we report the latest results from the rural areas.

The following unofficial results have been computed on the basis of estimates with a margin of error of 1 or 2 percentage points.

La Libertad:	
APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance]	61.0 %
FREDEMO [Democratic Front]	26.9 %
IU [United Left]	11.8 %
Lambayeque:	
FREDEMO	40.4 %
APRA	28.6 %
IU	23.9 %
Other parties	7.2 %
Loreto:	
FREDEMO	54.6 %
APRA	23.5 %
Independent Movement	9.9 %
Other parties	11.0 %
Puno:	
FREDEMO	31.1 %
IU	27.6 %
National Front of Peasants and Workers	18.5 %
Other parties	22.8 %
Huanuco:	
FREDEMO	48.5 %
IU	22.5 %
APRA	18.6 %
Other parties	8.9 %
Arequipa:	
National Front of Peasants and Workers	42.6 %
FREDEMO	27.3 %
IU	18.8 %
Other parties	5.1 %
Tumbes:	
FREDEMO	49.9 %
APRA	27.4 %
IU	15.6 %
Other parties	5.1 %
Moquegua:	
National Front of Peasants and Workers	29.4 %
FREDEMO	26.7 %
APRA	24.6 %
IU	21.5 %
Tacna:	
Independent Movement	47.8 %
APRA	23.5 %
FREDEMO	11.9 %
Other parties	10.7 %
Piura:	
FREDEMO	37.5 %
APRA	28.3 %
IU	19.1 %
Other parties	13.4 %
Junin:	
FREDEMO	41.5 %
IU	28.4 %
APRA	11.9 %
Other parties	19.4 %
Cuzco:	
IU	58.9 %
FREDEMO	19.6 %
APRA	12.5 %

Other parties	10.5 %
Ica:	
FREDEMO	33.5 %
APRA	32.8 %
IU	21.6 %
Other parties	12.4 %
Madre de Dios:	
IU	30.9 %
FREDEMO	28.5 %
APRA	27.7 %
Other parties	13.5 %
Amazonas:	
FREDEMO	21.2 %
IU	17.4 %
APRA	12.2 %
Other parties	39.5 %

Results of 'Armed Stoppage,' Power Outages Noted

PY1411180489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0313 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Lima, 13 Nov (EFE)—Government officials have reported that a total lack of activity and electricity characterized the Andean cities of Ayacucho, Huancayo and Huaraz today, 1 day after the municipal elections. The death threats of the Shining Path, which instituted a 3-day "armed stoppage" that is scheduled to end today, effectively halted trading and industrial activities, closed down the markets, and left the cities without passenger or freight transportation.

The sources reported that the terrorists blew up an empty tanker truck in front of a service station in downtown Huaraz, capital of Ancash Department, 409 km north of Lima. Nobody was hurt.

The electricity outage in Huaraz was the result of an 11 November Shining Path attack that toppled several high-voltage towers in Callejon de Huaylas district. In Huancayo, in the central mountain range, there was no power because several high-voltage towers of the Mantaro Dam power grid were blown up on 12 November.

Ayacucho is also suffering a power outage for similar reasons. Police sources also reported that terrorists set the home of an American Popular Revolutionary Alliance candidate for municipal councilman on fire on 10 November.

The sources stated that the "armed stoppage" was observed throughout Junin Department, whose capital is Huancayo. The sources reiterated, however, that on 12 November, despite the threats and the lack of transportation, citizens voted en masse to elect mayors and councilmen throughout the area where the Shining Path call for a stoppage was in effect.

Terrorist attacks on power networks have also affected Lima, where the state-owned power company announced that it will ration electricity until the damaged facilities are repaired.

Local political observers indicated today that the Sunday elections and the high degree of participation throughout the country served to strengthen democracy in Peru and epitomized a firm rejection of terrorism.

Nuclear Reactor Begins Radioisotope Production

PY1411165189 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1300 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Interview with Rear Admiral Cristobal Miletich, Nuclear Energy Institute president, by journalist Jimmy Arce in Lima; date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Arce] Good morning, Rear Admiral.

[Miletich] Good morning.

[Arce] A few days ago the Huarangal nuclear reactor reached the critical stage, that is, it has begun to produce radioisotopes. What is the current status of the reactor?

[Miletich] Well, first I would like to say that the production of the first radioisotopes implies a great leap forward for Peruvian technology, particularly in the nuclear field.

We are producing radioisotopes for the first time, in this case, the sodium 24 type that is used for medical purposes. In a few weeks, we will enter what we call the industrial phase, during which we will also produce iodine 131 and technetium. We will thus cover our needs. Soon we will export radioisotopes to other Latin American countries. We will export to Argentina, with which we are about to sign a radioisotope supply contract. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Teachers Begin Hunger Strike To Support Demands

PY1411144589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0513 GMT 14 Nov 89

[Text] Montevideo, 13 Nov (EFE)—A group of 33 teachers began a hunger strike in Montevideo today to pressure the Education Ministry into quickly resolving the indefinite teachers strike that started 45 days ago. The Association of Uruguayan Teachers [Asociacion de Maestros del Uruguay] (ADEMU) branch in Montevideo, where more than half of Uruguay's 3 million people live, began an indefinite strike on 27 September demanding a salary increase of $40 per month and rejecting an extension of school hours.

The government has acknowledged that the teachers are among the lowest-paid public servants, but in an election year the Uruguayan Constitution prohibits the government from granting any special salary hikes. Congressmen, and Labor Ministry and church representatives have attempted to mediate between the Education Ministry and the teachers' association, but no solution has been found.

The ADEMU has called a meeting on 15 November to evaluate the status of the strike. Meanwhile, several teachers have voiced their desire to lift the strike next week.

Venezuela

FDR Leaders 'Guests' of Embassy in El Salvador

PA1511015489 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0059 GMT 15 Nov 89

[Text] Acting Foreign Minister Jesus Carmona has confirmed that Salvadoran Democratic Revolutionary Front [FDR] leader Guillermo Ungo requested asylum at our embassy in El Salvador.

[Begin recording] [Carmona] In the wake of the regrettable incidents in El Salvador, the Venezuelan Embassy received the request of FDR leaders Guillermo Ungo and Hector Oqueli to be accepted as guests of the embassy. The Foreign Ministry was informed of the request and, duly authorized by President Carlos Andres Perez, agreed to grant Ungo and Oqueli the status of guests of our embassy in El Salvador.

[Reporter] How long will they remain as guests?

[Carmona] Their status as guests means they will decide when to leave the embassy.

[Reporter] Will Venezuela be able to grant asylum to these leaders?

[Carmona] Should the need arise, the Foreign Ministry will consider it.

[Reporter] Is there any possibility that asylum might be granted?

[Carmona] The possibility of granting asylum to any democratic leader is always present, because our country has a consistent view on asylum, as it is part of Venezuela's international policy. [end recording]

Suriname

Daily Terms U.S. Envoy's Action 'Intimidation'

FL0911213489 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] The United States Ambassador to Suriname, Richard Howland, has during a discussion with Army Commander Desi Bouterse made it known that his government is concerned about recent developments in Suriname.

Howland has last Tuesday met with Commander Bouterse. During this meeting he said that the United States of America will, among others, break economic relations with Suriname if the Army takes over power again. During the discussion with Bouterse, the United States ambassador to Suriname said that he hopes that the National Army will give full cooperation to the Suriname Government.

The daily DE WARE TIJD has today in an editorial referred to the attitude of the U.S. ambassador as intimidation and interference.

Union Federation Declines Bouterse's Invitation

FL0911213089 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 9 Nov 89

[Text] The Council of Trade Unions Federation of Suriname, Ravaksur, won't participate in the hearings in relation to [words indistinct] discussion between the chairman of the military authority, Desi Bouterse, and terrorist leader Ronnie Brunswijk. Ravaksur informed Commander Bouterse about this yesterday through a letter. Bouterse has invited various functional groups for consultation in relation to the invitation by Brunswijk for discussion. Ravaksur has in the letter said that these hearings are of the same nature as the national dialogue which at this moment is taking place on the initiative of this party. The military authority, however, doubts the constitutionality of this dialogue.

Ravaksur said that it supports every initiative that could lead to peace. Every action (?in this peace) is, however, a matter of the government and should, therefore, be carried out under its supervision, said Ravaksur in the letter to Bouterse.

The Council will, therefore, not accept the invitation by Commander Bouterse to participate in the hearings which will lead to [words indistinct] discussions between Commander Bouterse and terrorist leader Ronnie Bruswijk.

Government 'Happy' Over Bouterse-Brunswijk Talks

FL1011212089 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] The government is happy over an eventual discussion between Army leader Desi Bouterse and the terrorist leader Ronny Brunswijk and expressed the hope that this will form the basis for a solution to the question of peace. This was declared yesterday by President Shankar through a radio interview.

According to the head of state, the peace question together with other aspects of the national crisis are being discussed during the national dialogue. Shankar said that the government regrets the absence of the military authority at the dialogue but declared that this have not affected the discussions.

The discussions among 14 functional groups in order to solve the national crisis will be continued tomorrow. The participants will, among other things, vent their views about the origins of the current problems in the country and present solution models.

According to Shankar, the power struggle in Suriname will be among topics to be discussed during the coming sessions of the national dialogue.

Bouterse Consults Important Persons, Institutions

FL1011213889 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] The chairman of the military authority, Commander Desi Bouterse, has yesterday started his consulting important persons and institutions in the country in relation to an eventual discussion between himself and gang leader Ronny Brunswijk.

Bouterse had earlier announced that he would hold these consultations because of the national nature of the peace question. The commander was to exchange views with persons and institutions to find the definite standpoint in relation to the discussion and prospects. Brunswijk has some time ago invited Commander Bouterse for discussions on the peace question in Suriname.

Bouterse has already held discussions with, among others, Assembly Chairman Lachmon, the president of the judiciary, and representatives of the business sector and religious organizations. After the hearings, which will be continued today, Commander Bouterse will inform the president about the discussions which were held.

Bouterse Asks Indians Not To Attack Moengo

FL1011220489 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 10 Nov 89

[Text] The chairman of the military authority, Commander Desi Bouterse, has called the Tucayana Amazon Indians not to go ahead with their plans to attack the bauxite town of Moengo again in the Marowijne District. In a letter to the rebels, Bouterse asked the rebels to take cognition of the fact that at the moment the national dialogue is taking place and the possible talks, which will take place between himself and the terrorist leader Ronny Brunswijk.

The Army commander asked the Tucayanas to also take into account that he still has to meet with them. The Tucayanas have, in the early stages of their armed action, demanded a meeting with the Army commander. They haven't yet, however, handed an official invitation to Bouterse.

Bouterse's call to the Tucayanas comes in the wake of announcements by the rebels that they will carry out attacks on Moengo and other places were members of the so-called jungle commando and the Union for Liberation and Democracy are operating.

National Assembly Passes 1989 Budget

FL1311212789 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 13 Nov 89

[Text] The National Assembly has last Saturday unanimously passed the 1989 budget. The deficit for 1989 is 300 million guilders. The government has pointed out that it is thinking of reducing public expenditures and big measures to increase income. During the budget debate, President Shankar said the government will begin with the implementation of a recovery, growth, and adaptation program. According to President Shankar, this program is aimed at the realization of the recovery of the Surinamese economy.

During the budget debate, the opposition National Democratic Party [NDP] faction in the National Assembly walked out in protest from the House. The NDP was not in favor of the allocation of time for speakers during the budget debate and declared that it would take no further part in the debates.

Protesting Students Occupy Television Studio

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[Text] Last Friday's newscast by the Suriname Television Foundation, STVS, was disrupted as a result of the occupation of the studio by protesting university students. The students, who for some time now are occupying the university campus, recently declared that they will shift their activities to other institutions. The students have been protesting since July last for recognition of the [word indistinct] science courses.

The students attempted to read a statement during the newscast. The statement contains the announcement of further actions by the university students. When the students didn't succeed in their attempts, they left the studio. Student leader [name indistinct] told our newsroom this morning that the actions are being continued unabatedly. He accused Education Minister Ronald Venetiaan of making the students' problem a political issue. [Name indistinct] declined to comment on the nature of the future actions of the students.

Soviet Komsomol Delegation Ends 5-Day Visit

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[Text] A delegation from the Soviet Youth organization, the Komsomol, has said that this visit to Suriname formed the basis for the strengthening of cooperation between Surinamese and Soviet youths.

The three-man Soviet delegation left yesterday after a 5-day visit to Suriname. According to delegation leader (Vladimir Medsevev) they are now properly informed about the position of youths in Suriname and their development.

The delegation has held discussions with, among others, the youths of the National Democratic Party, the three parties that make up the ruling coalition, the Suriname Labor Party, and other youth organizations.